ACCOUNT

OF A

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

TO THE NORTH-EAST OF

SIBERIA,

THE FROZEN OCEAN,

AND THE

NORTH-EAST SEA.

BY

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VOL. II.

TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN,

AND EMBELLISHED WITH ENGRAVINGS.

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A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

TO

SIBERIA, &c.

CHAP. I.

DEPARTURE FROM THE BAY OF AWATSCHA FOR THE ISLAND OF UNALASCHKA.—DESCRIPTION OF THE BAY OF BOBROWIA.—REMARKS ON THE ALEUTIANS.

A Favourable gale springing up on the 29th of May, we stood out of the bay Awatscha in a south-easterly direction. On the 10th we discovered a plank floating on the sea, that appeared to have been torn from some vessel. Agreeable to our instructions, we should have steered along the chain of Aleutian islands towards America, and taken a map of this coast; but a thick mist coming on immediately after our departure out of the bay, it was unanimously resolved not to lose our time in a minute survey of every island, but to keep in close to the south side of those that were less obscure, and bend our course directly to America.

On the 16th we were surrounded by a great quantity of floating logs of wood and sea-wort. Many sorts of marine birds in great abundance kept hovering around us, and one of them, of the duck species, even lit on our vessel. We were now in north latitude 50° 39′, and longitude 169° 64′ from Greenwich, not more than 180 Italian miles distant from the island of Atta. We usually calculated by Italian miles, 60 of which go to a degree.

Our people on setting out were all tolerably recovered from the scurvy, with which they had been generally afflicted during the winter, but now they felt an increasing debility as they advanced farther into the open sea. The want of proper diet likewise contributed to renew the disease which had been completely removed. Salt meat was almost our only food, having been unable to lay in any stock of fresh provisions at Kamtschatka, where all sorts of animals, both tame and

wild, are very rare, and those who possess will not part with their little stock at any rate.

Though the wind was constantly favourable, yet the incessant mist impeded our progress for many days. We met with nothing remarkable till the 23d, when we discovered land, which proved, on our approach, to be Amtschitka, or one of the Rat Islands. From what we could distinguish through the mist, its shores appeared to be naked and not very elevated, but sometimes mountainous. At no great distance from thence we descried the island properly called the Rat Island, which derives its name from the circumstances of its abounding with rats. As there were formerly none of these animals here, it is surmised that they made their escape to the shore out of some Japan vessel, stranded on the coats. The eastern side of Amtschitka is more mountainous than the western, forming a rocky declivity from south-west to north-west. On a cursory view we estimated its length at 30 Italian miles.

On the 25th, the wind became so strong that we were obliged to carry less sail. Towards evening we stood to the north, and on the following day to the north-west; and, although still enveloped in mist, we could distinguish the high snowy mountains on the islands Adach and Jagitka.

On the 28th, the wind and mist abating, we perceived the island Amilja, and the lofty mountains Atcha contiguous to it to the west, both belonging to the Andiejenow Islands. We conceived our latitude to this time to be 41° 54′, and our longitude 187° 67; the western point of Amilja being north-west 52° 30′ at a distance of 15 miles. We sailed the whole day in a parallel line with the island about 8 miles distant. It is naked, mountainous, long, and marrow; being from west to east 44 miles in extent. Its eastern extremity is bounded by high and steep rocks. Its centre contains a number of hills. Its population does not exceed 60 persons.

In the evening we came in sight of the mountainous island of Seguam, about 24 miles in extent, lying 22 miles north-east by east of Amilja. It is uninhabited, and is said formerly to have had a volcanic mountain.

On the morning of the 29th we passed the island Amuchta at a distance of 6 miles. It is about 27 miles in extent, and is said to have a volcano. About 12 miles from Amuchta we passed Techugagar, an island 12 miles long and 5 miles broad.

On the 30th, we fell in with the four volcanic islands, which take their names from the four craters which they contain. They lie contiguous to each other, and bear distinct names.

That to the south-west, is called Ulaga; that to the north-east, Tschiginsk; that to the north-west, Tana; and that to the south-east, Chagamil. The two first are the largest, and about twenty miles in circumference.

The latter islands appeared to the north-north-west about 10 miles distant. They are said to be volcanic, and were once inhabited. At noon our latitude was 52° 34′. Towards evening we discovered the island of Umnack, one of the Fox islands, which extend in an unbroken range to North America. They derive their name from the number of black, dark-brown, and red foxes, with which they abound; but the white species found in all the islands near Kamtschatka, are no where to be met with here. Ten miles from the south-western point of Umnak, on casting the lead, we found 55 fathoms water, on a bed of black gravel. We drifted all night, and were carried by the stream 13 miles to the south-south-west.

The island Umnak is level on its western side, but elevated towards the noth-east. It extends as far as the strait which separates it from Unalaschka, and terminates with mountains; several of which, rising above the others, are volcanic, and crowned with eternal snow. It stretches, from south-west to north-east, 55 miles in length. The strait between Umnak and Unalaschka is at least 2 miles and a half in width. About 30 versts from the strait, and about 7 miles from Umnak, are two rocks, surrounded by water; whice, on the 31st of May, lay five miles distant toward the nort-west. We were then in latitude 52° 49′; and longitude 192° 45′.

On the 1st of June, we found ourselves in the latitude of 52° 53′, and a longitude 193° 44′; the southern point of Unalaschka being 23 miles distant. From this point the shore gradually rises to the north-east into a mountain.

On the 3d we were off the island Spirkin separated to the east from Unalaschka by a strait about a mile in width. Towards noon we estimated the latitude at 53° 44′, and the longitude at 195° 9′. As the form of the island Unalaschka has been accurately defined by many observations of Captain Cook, we that during the 25 days of our sailing from Petropaulousk we had deviated 50 miles out of our course towards the east.

In the forenoon seven Aleutians put off from Unalaschka in their single-seated baidar, and came up to our ship. Two of them, who spoke tolerably good Russian, offered to conduct us to a commodious anchoring-place.

Soon after a large baidar, covered with leather, came along

side of us, containing a Russian hunter and eight rowers, who had been rowing about in search of the drifted wood for fuel. The Russians told us they came from the ships Bartholomew and Barnabas, belonging to the merchants Panow and Company, which were at present lying at anchor in the strait of Issanozk; but that he himself was left at Unalaschka as the master of a baidar, for the purpose of catching wild animals.

In the afternoon, as we were nearly becalmed, we hoisted out our boat, and towed the ship into the strait between Spirkin and Kigalga. Near the entrance of the strait are two rocks, which tower out of the water; they lie close to each other, and are about 2 miles and a half distant from the island Kigalgal, towards 180, ½. These are the rocks between which Captain Cook lost himself during a fog, and to which, owing to his providential escape, he gave the name of *Cape Providence.*

In the evening, with the help of towing, and a good tide, we got round the northern promontory of Spirkin, anchoring, near the shore at a little distance from an Aleutian village, in the joyful expectation of meeting with some fresh provisions for the recovery of our sick.

From our anchoring station, a large bay extended south-west into the interior of the island Unalaschka, which is called Beaver-bay. Agreeable to the desire of our commander, we went on the following day with Doctor Merk, in a baidar, to examine the bay, and took with us provisions for seven days. We bent our course to the south-west, by the shore of the island Spirkin, within the bay, which is not so steep as on the south-eastern side; for here the extremities only of the cape terminate in rocky acclivities, whereas, on the contrary side, the declivities are excessively steep. The internal part of the island affords four tolerable lakes, at no great distance from and nearly opposite to each other. The water, which in the middle is 50 fathoms, becomes gradually more shallow towards the shore. We chose one of these bays for our night's station, and found, when the water retired in the evening, a number of muscles on the strand, containing several small pearls. The next morning we were obliged to remain till nine, in order to repair our baidars, the leather of which had been considerably injured by the sharp stones jutting out from the shore.

Mr. Merk having landed to collect plants, I proceeded onward by myself in my examination, taking a minute survey of the strait before-mentioned, which separates Spirkin from Unalaschka. It is a mile in breadth, and about 50 fathoms in depth; extending to the south-east, for 3½ miles, to the side of Ilmudichtchit, which penetrates, for three miles, into

the interior of Unalaschka. Farther on, it is narrower by one half, and the shore by no means so steep. Its depth is from 20 to 25 fathoms, and the bottom is composed of a sand mixed with shells. In the middle of this strait, and particularly towards the right bank, there are many concealed rocks, and one, which at its termination rises considerably above the water. In the vicinity of these rocks the water is 10 fathoms deep. The hidden part of the large one is covered with an incrustation of coral.

On my return late in the evening, I found that Mr. Merk had collected a vast number of plants, and that our hunters had shot two woodcocks, besides finding a nest full of eggs, which afforded us a comfortable supper. We did not observe many birds on shore, but the few we saw were chiefly white-headed eagles, and some small birds of the finch species; with whose red feathers the Aleutians adorn themselves.

On the 6th, we pursued our rout along the shore of the Beaver's-bay, passing five other different bays. The first of them, named Amugul, has an island in its centre; and the second Taneska, has four such islets. All these bays run three or four miles into the country, and are supplied with streams of fresh water from the mountains; their depth, in the middle, being 50 fathoms, and at the sides much less. From the last of these bays, called Kikukala, we passed over to the opposite shore as far as the entrance into Beaver's-bay, and lay to, for the night, close by a small cataract that descended from a lofty mountain.

On the 7th we passed the bay of Unytschaba, and finding another bay at noon, named Ugadaga, we ran into it for the purpose of taking our dinner. Here, as the Aleutians informed us, we were not very distant from Captain's-haven, beyond the mountains, which had received its name from Captain Lewaschew's having wintered there. Mr. Merk and I being both desirous of visiting it, we immediately resolved to repair to the spot. For two miles we were obliged to ascend the steep mountains, until we gained the summit of the high chain which encompasses the whole island, and to which the crater on the northern side belongs. These mountains are covered from the foot half way up with moss and grass: higher up they are quite barren, terminating at the summit in naked rock. In the vallies on the banks of the lakes and rivulets, a few alders and small bushes are occasionally to be met with. On the summit of the mountain which we ascended we found two lakes of fresh water; at the bottom of which we perceived some chalybeate ochre, with which the swampy places appeared to be filled. From thence we passed over some inferior mountains, until,

by a retrograde descent of about five miles, we reached the Aleutian village of Illuluk.

Illuluk lies on the eastern part of Captain's-bay, at the mouth of a brook. It contains four large jurts, or huts, constructed of mud, and logs of wood, which are driven hither by the currents of the sea. They are covered with grass and mud, and instead of a door have an opening, which is too low to enter without stooping. From this opening you ascend by a beam, that serves for stairs, into the interior of the hut; where, close by the walls, divisions are set apart for each family, and the floors are covered with rush-mats, which serve for beds. Every female occupies a distinct division, and is mostly busied in making mats, sacks, or baskets, which task she executes with amazing dexterity. These baskets, &c. are made of the longest blades of grass previously dried, and for the finer works, split into slips. In this process, she uses no other instrument but her fingers: with the nail of her fore-finger, which she suffers to grow to a great length, until it is as sharp as a lancet, she not only parts the blades of grass, but also the sinews of animals, which she twists with her fingers alone into a beautifully fine and even thread for sewing their clothes. Their needles they make of the bones of fish, large or small as the work requires, and fasten their thread to them by tying. Whenever they get a steel needle, they immediately break off the eye, and rub it on the edge of a stone, till they have made a notch, where they can tie the thread in their usual way.

It is worthy of remark, that the stomachers of these women are as beautifully shaped and decorated, as if they had been the workmanship of a European embroiderer. The stomacher is made of the skin of a bird's neck, stretched and prepared for the purpose, and ornamented with silk, or the hair of goats and horses interwoven with that of the reindeer, which latter appears like rows of small pearls. In a similar manner they decorate the holiday dresses, girdles, and caps of their husbands. The dress of the men resembles a waggoner's frock, with a high round collar of elk's skin; it is neatly ornamented with goats hair, bordered with a strip of sea-bear's skin.

The common dress of the women differs but little from that of the men. It has a standing collar, about two inches broad, enamelled in various patterns. The front of the dress, and the opening of the arms, is trimmed with a row of pearls or coral. Their festival dress is similar in shape, but more enamelled, and bordered with rows of coral, bird's beaks, and goat's hair. When they go on the water, they draw over their common dress another, made of the entrails of animals sewed together,

Men. & Woman of Ulv. Isaiska.

and wear trowsers, and boots made of the skin of the sea-lion's neck. On their heads they wear a wooden hat, from which descends an ornament of coral and hair.

When one of these Aleutians thus arrayed is seated in his baidar, there is something majestic in his appearance; but when he rises, he cuts a deplorable figure; and when he walks, he looks still more wretchedly, being disabled by continual sitting from straightening his feet or knees. Their countenances are not unpleasing, though rather wild, and their features uniform with the exception of the bone of the forehead, which projects too much over the eyes. Their hair is black and stubborn, but they are for the most part beardless. I saw only one old man who had a few hairs scattered on his chin.

The men leave their faces as nature has formed them, but the vanity of the females leads them to disfigure theirs in a variety of ways. They perforate them in lines, from the nostrils to the ears, and rub in charcoal, which produces, when the wound is healed, a bluish furrow. Another is formed in the same manner, from the upper lip to the chin. They pierce the cartilage of the nose, and wear long pendant ornaments of amber, coral, and enamel. Enamel they receive from the Russians, and amber from the Americans of Alaksa, both of which are in great estimation. They also pierce two holes in the hollow of the upper lip, in which they wear long thin bones: round the edges of their ears they sew ornaments of blue or white enamel.

There are, however, many females who, out of complaisance to the Russians (with whom they frequently intermarry), abstain from this barbarous custom. Many who are the offspring of these marriages have perfectly fair European complexions, and red hair, and would in my opinion be esteemed uncommon beauties even in Europe. They cut the hair off the forepart of the head, and bind the remainder into a knot at the back part. They wear no covering on the feet or head, nor any other clothing than the vest before described.

In the evening, some of these people returned from the chace, and informed us, that they had killed a small whale, on the western point of Captain's bay. As we passed the night there, Mr. Merk set off on foot the next morning to see this fish, and I preferring to go by water, took a baidar with two other persons. The day being perfectly serene, I felt no apprehensions at venturing myself in this little bark upon the bay, although it was only 23 feet long, one and a half broad, and eight deep. It was entirely covered with skins, in which openings were left for each person to enter. I sat in the middle, one Aleutian at the head, and another at the stern. We were also attended by

four others, in separate baidars. To one of them I gave the lead to sound the depth, where I conceived it necessary, while I myself kept the compass, and where it was practicable I went on shore. By this means, I effected a complete survey of Captain's-haven in one day. Its entrance is divided by the mountainous island Amaknak into two straits, which run into it; that to the east, is about a mile in width, and in the middle of the entrance, from 22 to 23 fathoms deep, although a little more to the north-east towards the main sea, the water is more than a hundred fathoms deep. Nearer the internal part of the haven, towards the south, the depth and ground are very various. At first the water decreases from 23 to 10 fathoms, the ground consisting of fine sand: at the distance of about three cables, the depth is from 9 to 10 fathoms, and the ground stony; after this, the depth increases to 25 fathoms, with a muddy bottom. A quarter of a mile from the entrance near the island, is the gulf of Udachta, about half a mile broad, and, on the side next the ocean, bordered with a strong bank. The water in its centre is from 17 to 20 fathoms deep, and its bottom muddy. From this bay to the distance of two miles, as far as the village of Illuluk, is a good anchoring-place, with 8 or 9 fathoms water, and a muddy bottom. Here the road becomes disproportionably narrow, curving out to the west, and penetrating into the island of Amaknak, which shelters it from wind and weather. On entering the straits, care must be taken to run in on the left side of some masses of stone, which rise above the water. They are about 60 fathoms distant from the shore, but the water here is not more than from 5 to 8 fathoms, while that on the right side, is at most only 3 fathoms and a half. About a mile and half beyond the village, the island of Amaknak terminates, and you enter the inner part of Captain's-bay. It is about a mile broad, but towards the south extends three miles and a half, having in the centre 50 fathoms water, which becomes shallower as you proceed, the ground being always muddy. On the main shore, a brook descends from the mountains, to the right of which lie four small islands. It was behind these islands that Captain Laweschew lay a winter at anchor.

My Aleutians pointed out to me a hillock on the shore, which they said was the spot where the jurts for the crew stood; but at present no vestige of a human abode remained, except a decayed wooden cross, on which, with much difficulty, I deciphered the following inscription:—"Captain Laweschew here passed the winter of 1768-9, with his ships." The proper and securest entrance to Captain's-haven, or bay, is at the southern point of the island of Amaknak, on its right side from the

western bay or strait, which is 200 fathoms wide, and as wide again as the eastern. In the middle it is so deep, that a line of 50 fathoms will not reach the bottom. At its entrance from the ocean, lies, on a gradually sloping shore, the village of Pestrakowo; and on the left, adjoining the island of Amaknak, is situated the isle of Uknodak, which is not more than a mile in circumference. The water between these islands is from 7 to 16 fathoms deep, with a sandy bottom.

It was late in the evening before I returned from the execution of my task to the village of Illuluk, where I found Doctor Merk, with several Aleutians from the neighbouring villages, assembled to await my arrival. I had received instructions to make particular enquiries concerning the improper conduct of some Russian hunters towards the islanders two years before. From the accounts given to the governor, by Serjeant Builow, who accompanied the hunters for collecting the japak, it appeared, that this spot had been the theatre of many oppressions. The serjeant had resided with these people, and taken down in his day-book an account of their grievances, which, on his return, he delivered in to the commander. Accordingly, the governor-general of Irkutsk had commissioned Captain Billings to ascertain the facts. Having found all strictly true, I assured these islanders, that their oppressors would be severely punished for their conduct, and used every exertion to convince them that our august empress wished for nothing so much as their happiness, having strictly prohibited every disorderly proceeding. This circumstance of the Russian hunters, reminds me of the following passage, in a Voyage published by Mr. Sauer, secretary to Captain Billings, where speaking of Captain Coxe, an Englishman, meeting with some Russian hunters, and making some presents to the steersman Pribyloff, he observes, in the 16th chap. "Nothing in the world can astonish a Russian more than a disinterested liberality, or kindness, without some prospect of future benefit: greatness of soul is applied to every man who is just, and grants his servants some few indulgences; every thing beyond this is called folly, and is sure to be imposed upon; nor have they any sentiment of feeling, except it be excited by blows. Taking this for the ruling character of the Russian hunters, it will be easy to conceive the astonishment of Pribyloff and his companions, at the liberality of Mr. Coxe." From the unqualified terms in the beginning of this quotation, many might be led to judge harshly of the whole Russian nation. It is, however, evident from the context, that he means only to apply it to the hunters, which is, however, done in much too general a manner. There are no doubt, both in Russia and England, and all other countries, indivi-

duals, particularly among the poorer classes, who are devoid of the finer feelings of exalted benevolence and generosity, and may be more easily affected by fear, than by honour or integrity. Where then is the wonder, if such be also found among the Russian hunters, when we find them among those who call themselves philosophers. But notwithstanding all that has been said by different persons, to the discredit of this class of men, I cannot refrain from observing, that these hunters, who go out with merchantmen to the Eastern Ocean, are mostly persons who, from a state of affluence, are reduced by their own extravagance, or by unavoidable misfortunes, to the necessity of seeking a precarious living, at a distance from their former abode. Ochotsk is immensely remote from Russia, and the travelling by land no less toilsome than that by sea from thence to America, which must be undertaken in vessels altogether unfitted, either in bulk or tackling, for such a distance, and devoid of every comfort and convenience; whence it may be fairly concluded, that few, except persons in desperate or low circumstances, will offer their services, and that among such an assemblage of people many will be found to abuse the power vested in their hands. The hunters with whom Serjeant Builow was in company, had selected one from among themselves to be their leader, to whose orders they paid not the slightest deference. According to the account of the serjeant, these hunters compelled the islanders to procure beasts and skins for them, which they took without making any remuneration. This trade is, however, at present placed on a better footing; some naval officers having undertaken the command of the vessels destined for America, from which we may naturally expect the preservation of good order and discipline on the part of the Russians, and a renewal of confidence on that of the islanders: so that the trade will in future flourish on the sure basis of mutual interest.

On the morning of the 9th of June, we left the haven, and returning at noon to our baidars in the Beaver-bay, pursued our rout after dinner along the north-western shore of the bay towards the entrance. Having made almost three miles, we came to the gulf of Gamgek, directly opposite to Sperkin's-strait. Our Aleutians informed us, that an English merchantman had anchored here the year before. The gulf penetrates a mile and half inwards. At the entrance, it is a mile broad, and in the middle 50 fathoms deep, but farther on it shallows to less than 5 fathoms, the bottom being muddy, with sand occasionally interspersed. About three miles from the gulf, we arrived at the village of Utschuguy, situated on a winding of the shore, near a stream which descends from the

mountains: beyond this, the shore of the bay for three miles is covered with cliffs, and terminates with projecting rocks.

On the 10th, I concluded my sketch of the Beaver-bay, and returned to the Slawa Rossu, which I found ready for sea, and only waiting a favourable wind.

While we lay at anchor, we were supplied by our Aleutians with a sufficiency of stock-fish and roaches for the whole crew. The hunters whom we had sent to the island Kekalga, brought us also a variety of sea-fowl, and a particular sort of black-headed geese, which Dr. Merk called *Canadian*. On one of the cliffs which rises out of the water, at a small distance from land, they likewise killed a sea-lion: a creature so called, as it seems, from the colour of their hair, and a sort of bushy mane on the necks of the males, which are nearly three feet long, and at the breast proportionably stout, but from thence to the tail becoming gradually smaller and more pointed. The head is round and bearded; and the nostrils extend very much when they are irritated. They are found in troops on the islands of the Pacific Ocean, and have frequent contests together, about their dens and females. They live on fish and amphibious animals. The people of Kamtschatka, who shoot them with arrows when they are asleep, cure their flesh and fat for food, and their skins either for clothing or covering their snow-shoes.

In the mean time, our priest baptized ninety-two islanders at their own request; but not understanding their language, he could not properly instruct them in their new religion, into which they were initiated, by the simple ceremony of the sacrament.

For a whole week, we were detained by nothing but contrary winds.

CHAP. II.

DEPARTURE FROM UNALASCHKA FOR KADJAK. — DESCRIPTION OF THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS.—THE ISLAND OF KADJAK, AND ITS INHABITANTS.

ON the 17th of June, I accompanied Captain Billings to the village Utschujug, on the other side of the Otters-bay, where the Russian inhabitants had heated the baths for us. They are the only persons having such baths, which they have constructed out of subterraneous caves, and lined with walls one brick thick.

Being informed by the Aleutians, that at no great distance beyond this bay we should come to that in which Captain

Cook had lain with his vessels, we wished to have visited the spot, and had no sooner commenced our excursion, than we discovered our ship to be under sail, and were obliged to relinquish our design. The wind and weather which had been so favourable, as to induce Captain Hall to weigh anchor in our absence, was very soon succeeded by a calm; but by the help of a brisk gale which sprung up towards evening, we managed to get out of the bay by the strait at which we entered. From Unalaschka we took with us two male Aleutians and one female. One of the former spoke very good Russian, and both had been already on all the islands east of Unalaschka, and knew their names. At midnight a thick mist arose, which lasted till seven in the morning, when the island Atrutan, with its smoking crater, and the circumjacent islets, gradually opened to view. At ten o'clock, we discovered the conical summits of the island of Unimak, one of which, called Agagedan, is likewise volcanic, and at that time emitted a thick smoke. The extreme point of another, called Chagyan, appeared to have sunk in.

In the afternoon, our view was intercepted by a thick mist. Notwithstanding, we pursued our course towards the island of Sannach, and found the depth at midnight to be 60 fathom, and the bottom muddy; but farther on the depth decreased, and the ground became alternately stony and sandy, intermingled with muscles. About five in the morning, we descried through the mist, in a straight line before our vessel, several masses of rock, projecting from the water, which we instantly evaded, and bent our course towards Sannach, to the left of which we perceived the island of Akatum, and a part of Unimak, lying opposite to the Isanoskish strait. At the distance of two miles from Sannach, we perceived on its north-western side a ridge of mountains, rising one above another, but, generally speaking, the shore of the whole island appeared to be rather level. Its length was about twelve miles. On the west side, reefs of rocks run for six miles into the sea, occasionally projecting, and containing, according to the account of the Aleutians, many otters. At no great distance from Sannach, lie three other small and level islands. Taking a north-eastern direction from thence, we proceeded straight to the Schumagin islands, and in our way thither passed a number of islands, of which eight on our left hand had names. The first, twelve miles north-north-east of Sannach, was Nainmak. To the south-east of this lie a quantity of nameless islands, that are little more than masses of earth projecting out of the water. The second is called Animak, or the Rein-deer island, from the number of wild rein-deer with which it is stocked.

It is six miles distant from the former, and in like manner surrounded by insular spots of earth. The third island, Laluskich, lies fourteen miles north-east of the Rein-deer island. The fourth, Agajanaksisch, is situated only three miles north of the third, the fifth north-west of the fourth, and the sixth, Kujeddach, two miles east of the fourth. The seventh island, Kitagotach, lies three miles east-south-east; and the eighth, Unatchoch, two miles north-east of the sixth. In the strait between these two latter, there is a pointed rock, that projects to a great height out of the water. This is, however, less entitled to notice than the lofty volcanic mountain on the shore of Alaksa, opposite to the island Unatchoch, the summit of which was torn off and hurled down with a tremendous crash, in an eruption in the year 1786.

On the 21st, we reached the Schumagin islands, so denominated by Captain Bering, after the name of one of his sailors who was buried there. They are thirteen in number, of which Unga and Ilagia are distinguished by their size; five others are called Kagai, Saluluktussich, Nunak, Tachkinach, and Kunujutanany; the rest are nameless. They are all mountainous, and lie close to each other, in lat. 55° 2′, and long. 199° 27′.

In the afternoon, we saw several small baidars advancing from these islands towards our vessel, which they overtook, although it sailed at the rate of four Italian miles an hour. On one of them was a Russian hunter, who, according to his own account, belonged to a merchantman, which was sent with eighty Aleutians to the Schumagin islands in pursuit of otters, and was now anchoring in the Isonozkish strait. We lay to for three hours, while Mr. Billings made out an order for the master of the above-mentioned vessel.

On the 24th, we were almost entirely becalmed. Fowl of various descriptions hovered over the sea, but particularly a sort of divers, which were to be seen in immense flocks. We shot one of them, but found its flesh more fat than savoury. This bird, which is a native of the Frozen Ocean, is about the size of a common duck, with a white body, an ash-coloured back, head, and neck, a white and round tail, a cylindrical pale-green bill, red legs, and webbed feet. It lives on the fat of dead whales, is very bold, and often lights on the vessels. We were surrounded likewise by a number of *cetaces*, a species of whale, which leaves a fat behind it on the surface of the water, that is very acceptable to the mews and divers. Sea-lions and sea-bears darted out of the sea, very often near our ship.

Towards the evening, we discovered, north-east 40°, a tolerably large and steep rock, surrounded by other stony masses.

projecting out of the water. It is said to be the abode of sea-lions.

On the 25th we touched at the seven Eudokejusch islands: the three first of which are called Abeksinoi, Samidin, and Agejeeh; and the four last, which are much smaller, have no name. They are all hills, very contiguous to each other, and surrounded with reefs of rocks, both visible and invisible. While in the strait between these islands, our course was arrested by a perfect calm. We found ourselves in latitude 56° 10′, and longitude 202° 51′, having 50 fathoms depth of water, and a white gravelly bottom.

In the afternoon several Americans came in their double and treble-seated baidars, on board our ship, accompanied by a Russian hunter, who, as he informed us, was sent with three islanders from Shebebow, a village in Kadjak, to catch sea-lions and fowls.

One of these Kadjakers, who attended this hunter, and appeared to be about forty years of age, differed altogether from the others, having the appearance of a female, with his nose punctured, and rings of pearl-enamel in his ears. We learnt from the hunter that this man supplied the place of a wife to one of the islanders, and performed all the offices belonging to the female sex.

The calm continuing, our ship was barely carried onward by the tide through the strait. In the mean time Mr. Billings and the doctor went on shore, and shot some marine birds, which are very numerous on these uninhabited islands, because they are seldom or never disturbed by the inhabitants of the other islands. In the evening a gale sprung to the south-east, but we could not profit by it, because two of our hunters were not yet returned from the chase. On their arrival the next morning, they said that, from having extended their walk too far on the preceding evening, they had been obliged to sleep in the open air. We now unfurled our sails and steered for Kadjak. At noon we found ourselves in latitude 56° 20′, and longitude 203° 21′. Soon after we descried, at a distance of 26 miles towards the south-east, in latitude 56°, the flat island of Elkamok.

On the 27th we got sight of Kadjak. The wind, which had been favourable for two days, changed its quarter; but notwithstanding we were enabled, by a gentle north breeze, gradually to approach the islands of Tugudock and Sitchinock, lying on the south-western point of Kadjak. During the whole night the wales swam around our ship, and perpetually occasioned, by their violent lashing of the waves, a report very similar to that from the discharge of a cannon.

On the 28th, several islanders came in their double-seated baidars to our ship, without betraying any symptoms of fear.

They offered nothing to sale, but soon after returned to their habitations. In the mean time a favourable gale sprung up, by the aid of which we made towards the south-western point of Kadjak; the depth of water decreased to 16 fathoms, the ground was sandy, and in some places gravelly.

After passing the island of Tugudock at noon, we entered the strait between the south-western shore of Kadjak and the island Sichtunok. Close to the shore of Kadjak lie four inlets in a line, the first and largest of which was Anajachtalich, and the latter, which affords the view of a lofty mountain, is called Nasikach. We bore round to the southern side, and put into the harbour of Erech Swatitely, north-north-west, between the island Sachlidock and Kadjak, from whence the agent to the Russian merchant Schelechow's establishment came out to meet us. The strait, at its entrance, is four miles and a half broad; its depth at first unfathomable, afterwards 75 and 70 fathoms with a muddy bottom.

On account of the calm that succeeded, we were obliged to hoist out the boats and tow our vessel; but a brisk gale springing up fair for the harbour, we entered it after a little veering; and tacking our ship, we moored it. The harbour of Erech Swatitely which is called by the inhabitants Manikaksak.

It lies on the left side of Kadjak, in the above-mentioned strait, at the entrance of the very secure creek of Lachik. The harbour is not large, being sheltered and formed by a neck of land jutting out of a mountain, and bending in an arch round the same mountain, by the creek of Lachik. At its mouth it is 60 fathoms broad, and from five to eight deep, but the depth in the middle goes to 12 fathoms. Its bottom is muddy, and it is one verst and a half in extent.

Towards evening we went on shore and visited Schelechow's factory, established on the southern side of the haven, along the shore. It consists of mud-walled huts, a store-house, and two jobas, built of alder-wood, which is transported in barges from the eastern side of the island. It is inhabited by Russian hunters, who are under the inspection of a Delawa Greek. In one of the huts we found several children of the inhabitants of this island, who serve as hostages for the fidelity of their parents. They are treated very well, and not strictly confined, being permitted not only to see their parents, but even to go to their homes occasionally for a short stay. The former are, however, obliged to provide them with food and every necessary.

The island of Kadjak has been known to the Russians for thirty years. Schelechow has denominated this island Kychʻak, which, in the language of the Kadjakers, designates every large island; I have, therefore, called it by the particular name which it has received from the inhabitants. In the year 1763 the translateur

Glotow wintered here with the merchantman belonging to a trading company: in the year 1765, Bragin did the same with another ship, and in the year 1770, the steersman Otscheredin. In the first expedition to Kamtschatka, Captain Behring discovered this island on his return from America, and called its north-eastern cape Cape Hermogenes; Captain Cook called the same Cape Greville; and the islands Tugudock and Sitchtunock, Trinity Islands.

On the 30th we carried our water-casks on shore, and exchanged our foul and stinking water for the fresh and pure liquid that flowed in a gentle stream from the mountain. On the opposite shore we erected an astronomical tent, and close by it a common kitchen. The islanders flocked to us every day, as curious and wondering spectators, and particularly admired the extraordinary size of our vessel compared with their barges. They offered us nothing for sale, probably from a dread of the Russian hunters, who monopolize to themselves all they have to sell.

The inhabitants of the island of Kadjak, although in the neighbourhood of the other Aleutians, are notwithstanding widely different from the rest of their nation. They are much taller, have fat and depressed faces, and a language altogether different. Their clothing consists of a single robe of birds' skins sowed together, without any decoration, and a little flattened hat of plaited roots. They cut off all their hair, except one tuft on the crown, which they grease with fat, some likewise strewing it with a red powder, and in addition to that with the white flue of birds. One of them had pierced the gristle of his nose with a pointed bone, four inches long; and another had taken some corals to serve as a similar ornament. On particular holidays and festivals, they besmear their faces with various colours, marking them with lines and divisions of black, white, and red, according to their several tastes. Their baidars, or principal canoes, are double the size of those of the Aleutians, but much shorter, being commonly double-seated, and often only single-seated, with a short oar, like a shovel. I have not seen their habitations, as there were none in the vicinity of our harbour; but, according to Captain Billings and the doctor's account, who, on an excursion to Sachlidok, saw several of them, they resemble those of the Aleutians. The number of inhabitants on Kadjak, and the circumjacent islands, Aphognak, Sachlidok, Schujech, Tugidok, and Sichtunok, is computed by Delarow at three thousand.

On the 3d of July, I sat off very early in the morning to take the Bay of Laelick. It commences at the haven of the Three Fathers, where it is a mile in breadth, and penetrating about three miles and a half into the interior of Kadjak, in the direction of north and north-west, and afterwards bending to

south-west, and terminating at the distance of two miles. Its inner shore is divided into two sandy curves, which are occupied by two brooks of pure sweet water, flowing from the contiguous mountains. From its entrance to its bending, it has 55, 60, and 50 fathoms water, from thence to the interior 45, 40, and 30 fathoms on a muddy bottom. Close by the shore the depth diminishes to seven fathoms, and the bottom has a mixture of sand and gravel. The shore of the bay is every where mountainous, and occasionally steep. No wood is visible, except near the brooks, and a few alder-shrubs in the nooks of the mountains. I returned to the ship from this excursion very late in the evening.

On the 6th, we made every preparation for resuming our voyage, providing ourselves with every necessary, filling our casks with fresh water, and removing our kitchen and astronomical observatory from land. By observations during our stay, we found the northern latitude of this place to be 57° 12′, and the longitude, according to the distance of the moon and sun, 205° 47′ from Greenwich. The declination of the needle was calculated by the azimuth at 26°. The height of the tide was observed to be three or four feet, and its average time of commencement at a quarter before twelve.

The inspector Delarow gave us two interpreters, one of which was a Kadjaker, the other an American, from the shores of the Cape St. Elias; both spoke good Russian.

On Delarow's learning that we intended to steer for Kenaiskish Bay, he begged to accompany Captain Billings thither, for he had there an *Artell* of Russian hunters, from whom he had received intelligence that a Spanish three-masted vessel of war was arrived, and lay at anchor off Cape Elizabeth. An *Artell* signifies a company of men among the lower ranks, who are united for some common trade or occupation.

CHAP. III.

DEPARTURE FROM KADJAK FOR THE SCHUGATSKISH BAY, WITH AN ACCOUNT OF SUCCEEDING EVENTS.

ON the 6th of July, we cleared out of the harbour, and got under sail, bearing away for the south-eastern cape of the island Sachlidok, beyond which a rock separated from it at the distance of a verst rises out of the sea. On the 7th, we stood off to the north of Kadjak, and found its shores very mountainous and woody; likewise passed many creeks that penetrated into the different islands, and afforded, according to Delarow's assurance, very convenient stations for anchoring. We were

now in a latitude of 57° 25′, and a longitude of 207° 15′, at a distance of fifteen miles from the north-eastern cape of Kadjak, marked on the English maps by the name of Cape Greville, thirteen miles more to the south. Commodore Behring saw it on his return from Cape St. Elias, and called it St. Hermogenes; the Russian hunters call it Jelourgi, or the fir-mountains, from its quantity of wood.

On the 8th, we came within sight of the small island of Ewrawirtschig, which is two miles distant from Aphognak. We were then in latitude 58° 10′, and longitude 207° 45′, the above island being 55°, to the north-west, about ten miles from us. Captain Cook entitled this St. Hermogenes, and fixed its position fifteen miles more southward; from whence we should conclude, that a thick mist had given rise to this error in his calculation of the latitude.

Towards evening we descried the islets lying at the mouth of the Kenaiskish bay, or in Cook's River, and at a distance Cape Elizabeth. The approaching night, and contrary winds, prevented us from going nearer, and afterwards being driven by the tide far towards the east, a thick mist continued to intercept our view.

On the 12th the fog dispersed, and we discovered at a distance of five miles northward, the mountainous shore of America. We soon after saw two Americans, rowing up to us in a single-seated baidar. Before they got up to our ship, they made a stop, and extending their arms, repeated the word *Cali! cali!* We invited them by our interpreter to come on board, but they appeared to be long irresolute; and when induced by our repeated assurances to venture, they complied with manifest signs of apprehension.

From these Americans, we learned, that the bay ahead of us was called Nuka, and the cape that presented itself on its eastern side, belonged to an island, which was separated from the main land only by a strait. They added, moreover, that in this bay were several of an inferior size, with sandy bottoms, which furnished good stations for shipping. Their habitations lay in one of these havens, to which they invited us with much cordiality. Captain Billings ordered the ship to tack, and put into the bay, after which we bore up to the island in question, passing a rock to the left that was about two miles distant from it. On arriving at the bay, Captain Billings found it most prudent not to advance. We accordingly tacked about again, and soon gained the open sea. In the mean time, the Americans left us.

Nuka bay is seven miles and a half broad at its entrance. It extends nine miles in length, having mountainous and woody

shores. In the interior shore of the bay, we found in the cleft of a mountain, snow or ice, so high as almost to reach above the tops of the trees.

In the morning of the 13th, we were perfectly becalmed. Delarow now seeing it impossible for us to run into Kenaiskish Bay, left us, and rowed with his treble-seated baidar to Cape St. Elizabeth. At noon, we found ourselves in 59° 17′ latitude, and 209° 26′ longitude, Nuka bay being then nine miles distant from us north-north-west.

To the 16th, we were carried backward and forward with a gentle wind, or an entire calm, by the tide, along the shore of America; after which a southern gale sprung up, and enabled us to direct our course to Schugatskish Bay, called by the English Prince William's Strait. The wind in the mean time veered to the south-west, and afterwards to direct west.

On the 17th towards noon, we made up to the island of Tschukli, called Montague by Captain Cook, the southern point of which was then about two miles and a half from us. After passing that point, we turned to the north, and ran along the eastern side of Tschukli. The island is mountainous, and occasionally woody. Opposite to the middle of its eastern shore, we saw at a distance of two miles, five rocks or small islets, in a line one behind the other. Close by these rocks, we were perfectly becalmed, in a depth of 45 fathoms water, and a bottom full of gravel and shells.

On the 18th, we bore with a south-east wind to the north, along the island of Tschukli.

On the 19th, we found ourselves in 6° 2′ latitude, and 214° 9′ longitude, at which time the north-western point of Tschukli, was ten miles and a half distant from us to the north-west; and the projecting rocks at the entrance of Schugatskish Bay, three miles and a half to the north-east. The latter are the abode of sea-lions in abundance.

In the afternoon, we were visited here by two Americans, who, in like manner, made a stop at some distance, and extending their arms, cried *Cali! cali!* No persuasions of our interpreters could induce them to do more than come along our ship's side. We gave them some glass beads, with which they immediately departed, promising to return with more of their companions.

Towards evening we ran into the mouth of the bay Nutschek, lying to the right at the entrance of Schugatskish Bay, opposite to the northern point of Tschukli. We cast anchor immediately at the entrance seven fathoms deep, in a sandy bottom, at three cables' distance from the shore, opposite to a spring gushing out from the cleft of a rock, from whence we

could conveniently fill our casks. We found the whole shore, and the contiguous mountains, overgrown with birch and alder-shrubs, and a particular sort of tree resembling a fir.

Early on the morning of the 20th, some Americans came on board our ship, and formed an acquaintance with us. The following days they came in greater numbers, offering us pieces of otters' skin, arrows, and wooden house-utensils, for which they particularly preferred taking small blue glass beads in exchange. In their traffic they often used the words *amico* and *plenty*, which they had learned from other vessels, that must of course have been Spanish and English.

The Americans of this part are of a middle size, and a brown complexion, with black, straight, and bristly hair, being upon the whole very similar to the Aleutians. Their whole dress consists of a vest of birds' skins, and their hats are of platted roots, like those of the Kadjakers. Some have their under lip cut through an inch and half deep, and parallel with the mouth, wearing in the cavity little plates of green jasper, three quarters of an inch broad, and two inches three fourths long. Their baidars are double or single-seated like those of Kadjak. We did not see their habitations, there being none in our vicinity. Our guests also informed us, that they lived at a great distance.

On the 21st, Captain Billings announced to us, that agreeably to her Imperial Majesty's most gracious ukase, he was promoted to a captain of the first rank, as soon as he was arrived with the ship entrusted to him at Cape St. Elias; and as he had reached that cape, according to the maps given him by the Board of Admiralty, he now assumed that rank.

On the 22d, I received a written order from him, to navigate the interior of Schugatskish Bay, in order to survey the shores, and ascertain whether they belong to the continent, or an island.

One of the Americans agreeing to accompany me in his baidar, and tell me the name of the islands and brooks, I treated him with great kindness, made him presents of enamel and beads, invited him to my cabin, and treated him with tea, which he liked very much, on account of its sweetness. But after he had drank his tea, he concealed the cup under his clothes, and wanted to take his leave. I demanded it back, with the assurance, that I could not possibly spare it; upon which he returned it, declaring that he thought it had been given him as a present with the tea. It is in general worthy of observation, that the inhabitants of these parts have a violent propensity to theft. A day seldom passed in which something was not stolen from us, or our people. Many times they tore

out of one's hand what struck their fancy, and instantly made their escape to the shore. As an American was once conversing very familiarly with one of our hunters, he all on a sudden snatched his cap from his head, and springing into his baidar, was making off in all haste to the shore, when he was overtaken, and obliged to restore the plunder. Another plucked the scissars out of our taylor's hand, and made his escape. Our sailors, however, treated these savage people with great civility, and conducted themselves so peaceably, that only one difference arose, which was however quickly settled. An *Artell* of sailors had invited an American to dine with them on buck-wheat grits, of which he took a spoonful in his mouth, and swallowed a little, but as he did not like it, he spit out the remainder into the common dish. At this the sailors were highly provoked, and in the heat of their anger, were going to deal their blows upon the poor wretch; but on hearing the noise, we hastened to the spot, and delivered him from the assailants. He himself, however, was all the time at a loss to conceive the cause of their anger, and requested an explanation; which was no sooner given him, by observing, that he had made the mess unpalatable to the rest, than he in his turn was no less offended at the indignity offered him, assuring them that his mouth was not unclean, and that none of his countrymen would have objected to eat after him.

On the 23d, I set off on my excursion, having an inspector of the mines with me, to collect natural curiosities, sixteen men for my crew, and one of the Kadjak interpreters. At first, we passed the bay of Nutschek, which is about two miles broad, having in its centre three lofty rocks rising out of the water.

From the bay of Nutschek, the shore winds for eleven miles towards the north, and then turns to the east. We continually kept close to the land, and found it, for the first four miles, mountainous and steep, but farther on more woody and more level. Here we were overtaken by four baidars with six Americans, who continued as our guides until evening. On our looking out for a station for the night, they advised me to go on as far as the mouth of the brook, which we found abounded greatly in fish; but as I would not follow their advice, they left us, and pursued their own course. We took up our night's abode in a little creek, and after going on shore to prepare and eat our food, we returned to our bark, hauled it off a little from land, and lying-to with a small anchor, kept a watch all night, to prevent being surprized by any unexpected attack of the savages.

The next morning I pursued my course, and soon passed the brook, to which the Americans had, the evening before, invited

me. On the shore stood a cross with a Latin inscription, similar to what is found on catholic crosses. After making sixteen miles, we bore away to the right, for a bay which was two miles broad. The shore on both sides was at first level, and afterwards rose into inconsiderable mountains.

Towards noon we were met by eight double-seated baidars with Americans, among whom were some of our acquaintances, whom we had already seen in our ship. They had been on the chace after others, and told me, that the waters in which we were sailing, which we had taken for a bay, was only a narrow strait that leads into the open sea, but scarcely passable with their small baidars. They mentioned to us, likewise, a small island on the left side of the shore, which was, in like manner, separated from the continent by a narrow strait. Both we and the Americans landed on this island to prepare our dinner. They hauled their baidars on shore, and took out a young female otter which they had just killed, and two young otters, for which I gave them some enamel and beads. In the mean time, my dinner being dressed for me, our new companions flocked around it with eager curiosity. I invited them to partake of the meal, which they joyfully accepted, and discovered so much civility on the occasion, that I was occupied more with observing their movements than with eating. On the other hand, they were not deficient in hospitality, but invited me, in their turn, to partake of some boiled otter's-flesh, which they had just prepared. A keen appetite, and a rather savory smell, induced me to accept the offer. When hot, the flesh had an agreeable flavour, very similar to that of a sucking pig; but when cold, it leaves a strong taste of sea-weeds in the mouth.

After dinner we parted from our friendly Americans, and bent our course up the strait; but a thick mist coming on, we kept close to the left shore. Two hours after, the mist dispersed, and left both the right shore and the sea open to our view. I now steered in an oblique direction across the bay, in order to measure it, and found its depth 2½, 2, and 1½ fathoms; its bottom sandy, and its breadth 1½ mile. It was then high water, but fearing lest I should be stranded on the return of the ebb, I tacked about in the evening, and arrived before break of day the next morning in Shakutskish Bay. I would fain have examined the whole bay, but the want of provisions, and still greater want of time (being limited by my captain to only four days longer), obliged me to relinquish a farther examination, and commence my voyage back towards Elava.

On the 25th, we spent the last night at the distance of 6½ miles from Nutschek, when we met with some families of Americans close by the shore of the sea. Some of them lived in

huts of boards fixed together; others under large leathern baidars, placed in an inverted position. As they saw us approach, they made their usual movement of extending their arms, and crying *Cali! cali!* No sooner had I stepped on shore, than one of them came up to me, and laid his cheek on mine. This man was considerably taller than the rest, and had his face dyed with a black colour. The interpreter told me, that he and another standing close by him, were the Troies, or elders in their tribes. It was manifest, that they had not at first a complete confidence in us; but I addressed them kindly, and assured them, that, so far from offending them, we wished to be on the most friendly terms with them. They now pointed to the sun, which was meant to signify that they had no evil intentions: "You be as good to us," said they, "and conduct yourselves better than those who formerly came here with their ships to our shore, and why should we then quarrel with you?" I wished much to know of what nation these ships were, but they were unable to give me any information of this kind, only saying, that two and three masted ships arrived here yearly, and that in this year two had lain in Kenaiskish bay. It then occurred to me to enquire about Commodore Behring: whether they remembered any thing of a vessel which must have been the first that they had ever seen on their shores? I wished to learn the anchoring station of this navigator, but doubted very much whether Tschukli were the island, which he denominates the Cape of St. Elias, as this was marked in the charts delivered to us by the board of admiralty. One of the Americans then actually told us, that his father had related to him something of this ship; which, however, had not landed at Tschukli, but at the island of Kadjak, that lay about two days' sail to the east of this place, and was actually resorted to in the summer by the Americans, who went in pursuit of otters. The crew of this ship went on shore, and left them some knives and beads.

A few years after another and larger ship arrived there, which was stranded on the island of Tschukli, and not a single man of the whole crew was saved. Towards evening the Troies brought me two small boards, four feet long, two feet broad, and half an inch thick, and begged me to accept them as a token of friendship. I presented them each in return with a looking-glass, a knife, and some beads, which they very joyfully accepted, warning us to take particular care of our things, and be on our guard against some of their countrymen, who had a strong propensity to rob us. The very next morning we experienced but too fully the propriety of the caution; for, notwithstanding all our vigilance, an American drew a jacket from under our steersman's lad so dexterously, that though the boy was not sleeping, he had not the

slightest suspicion of what was passing. The thief changed his dress, besmeared his head and face with a red dye, and came with his companions to us again as usual; but his knavery did not remain long undetected: for no sooner was the affair made known to the Troies, than the perpetrator was discovered, and obliged to deliver up the stolen article. He brought it himself, and giving it to the lad, advised him with a smile, to take more care of his things in future.

My sailors observing to me, that they had noticed a smoke rising at a distance, I enquired of the inhabitants the cause, and learned, that it issued from their dwellings. Upon this, I felt a desire of visiting what I supposed to be their winter-habitations, and requested them to conduct me thither. They willingly complied with my request, and I set off in their baidar, accompanied by my interpreter. Running first up a rivulet, we crossed a lake that was about five versts in extent, not very deep, and overgrown with sea-weed. We landed on the other side, not far from the mouth of the brook; but instead of winter habitations, we only found a few inverted baidars, and a hut made of planks set together, in which some women were living with their children. They had taken up their abode here, for the purpose of fishing: the mouth of the brook abounding with all sorts of fish, particularly one called the hump-backed salmon. This is a fish of the salmon species, about a foot and half long, having a small head, a sharp nose, and from whence a hook projects, small teeth in the jaw, a bluish back full of round blackish spots, a blue tail, singularly turned up, and white flesh. It receives its name from a large hump which grows on the back of the males, when they are lean. They abound in the lakes and rivers of Kamtschatka, from July to the middle of October.

This brook is so shallow, that the dorsal fins of the fish going against the stream, almost perpetually rise above the water; and we witnessed a dog seizing the fish with the greatest facility, and dragging them with his teeth to the shore.

The women had on old vests of otters' skins, and their hair was tied up in a knot on the crown of their heads; but their faces were not so disfigured as among the Aleutians. After making them some presents of enamelled articles, beads, and needles, I returned to my bark.

At noon, I took my leave of the Troies, with thanks for their civility and assurances of our friendship; after which, I departed, and reached Slawa in the evening.

During the whole of our voyage, I had great apprehensions of an attack from the Americans, and for that reason had uniformly adopted the precaution before-mentioned; of sleeping at

a distance from the shore, and of having one person to keep watch all night. To this precaution, which then appeared superfluous to my companions, we were most probably indebted for the preservation of our lives. A rude people, who know of no moral feeling to check their inclinations, will follow the impulse of the moment, like the brutes, and from a trivial motive, will sacrifice the lives of others, when they impede the indulgence of their wishes. We were in great danger of having evinced the truth of this remark, by a melancholy example. The savages had learned from our interpreter, that I had much hardware and beads with me, which awakened in them the irresistible desire of getting possession of these treasures: as it appeared, however, impossible to steal them, they took the resolution of murdering us all on a convenient opportunity. They consulted with our interpreter, promising him his liberty, and their assistance in conducting him back to his country, and at the same time threatening him with the most dreadful punishment, if he should make the least discovery. Nor did he in fact tell me any thing of the plot, until some time after. Their conspiracy was the first time to have been executed on the first day of our leaving the vessel; for that reason they advised me when I halted for the night, to go up farther towards the fishing brook, thinking that that would be a more convenient place for them to effect their purpose; as had already been the case with some Spaniards, who, according to their own account, relying on their sincerity, had been so imprudent as to extend their rambles without any precaution. The second time they took the resolution of surprising us, was when we went on the shore of the strait to take our dinner. For this purpose, a party of them, to the number of more than twenty, continued sailing about our bark. They were in eight double-seated baidars, two in each, sitting in their proper places, and the third lying at the bottom. The better to conceal their design, they affected great civility, and expressed an eager desire to do us some service; while, watching the opportunity of our going on shore, they intended to carry off the bark, and thus get us completely into their power. But finding themselves frustrated in this expectation, they began to throw off the mask, and offer our sailors many open insults. I now commanded my men on the one hand to avoid every cause of quarrel, and treat them with civility, while on the other hand, I strove to inspire them with terror, by letting them see the effect of our fire-arms. I accordingly desired one of our hunters to fire among a flock of mews, as they were passing; and he fortunately hit one of them, and brought it to the ground. They were at first frightened at the report, but afterwards eyed the dead bird

with wonder and curiosity, enquiring where the arrow was with which it had been struck. The interpreter, at my desire, then explained to them the nature of our guns; and in order to render it still more intelligible, I had a ball shot through a post, which excited their amazement to that degree, that they continued for some time fixed in thoughtful contemplation. In the mean time, we had all our things brought back to the bark, and, putting off from the shore, sailed away.

Both parties of Americans were composed of stout young people, who were all of an age to undertake any daring enterprize of this kind. Let it not, however, be supposed from this circumstance, that all the natives are equally treacherous. The Americans with whom we spent the preceding night, conducted themselves with great openness, fairness, and civility; and although they had the most favourable opportunity of overpowering me and my companion, who were amidst them unguarded and unarmed, yet I never discovered any inclination in them to offend or injure. I also granted them my confidence, because they were for the most part men of respectable appearance, and advanced in years.

On the 27th, I returned to the ship, which I found still unprepared for pursuing its voyage. They were still cutting wood, and filling the water-butts. From the wood opposite to where we lay, they had cut a stock of poles, spars, and yards, and also some trunks of American firs, which in appearance are very similar to our own, but excel even the larch in strength and solidity; being likewise of a sufficient size for tolerably large vessels.

The Americans did not provide us with fresh fish, but we managed, by means of our own nets, to lay in a stock for ourselves of the hump-backed salmon, and other smaller fish.

CHAP. IV.

DEPARTURE FROM SCHUGATSKISH BAY TO THE EAST OF THE ISLAND OF KADJAK, AND RETURN THENCE TO KAMTSCHATKA. — ARRIVAL AND WINTERING IN THE HARBOUR OF PETROPAULOUSK.

ON the 30th of July we weighed anchor, and put to sea. Towards noon we were in the middle of the strait, between the bay of Nutschek and the island Tschukli, in latitude 60° 16′ 49″, and longitude 213° 2′.

Till the 3d of August we stood to the east, keeping in close with the shore, which appeared to be sandy and level, but backed at a distance by some mountains. In the morning we

saw three islands ahead of us, one of which was called Kadjak, or according to Cook, *Kay*. It is mountainous and woody, standing out beyond the other contiguous islands, stretching in length from north-east to south-west, and having on the latter side a particularly remarkable mountain that declines to the sea, with a steep declivity, which is so white, as to be hardly distinguishable from snow. On the southern side only it appears so steep; but on the eastern and western, almost entirely level. At some distance we perceived a lofty *kekur*, or pyramidal stone pillar, rising above the water; and on the shore we descried, among the ridge of mountains, one remarkably lofty, and covered with eternal snow, to which Captain Cook gave the name of Cape St. Elias. This then was the place to search for the cape, denominated by Commodore Behring, the Cape St. Elias, for the position of the island Kadjak, its kekur, its lofty mountain, or crater; and the coincidence of the latitude with that mentioned in Behring's journal, evince that the first ship which the Americans spoke of to us, as having been seen by their fathers at that island, was Behring's ship.

Our stock of sea provisions at this time ran very low, and as we had now no prospect of recruiting it any where, but in the harbour of Petropaulousk, it was unanimously resolved to bend our course back to Kamtschatka, which was a voyage of not less than two months. Here we expected to find the necessary supplies provided for us, from Ochotsk, during the summer. Had it, however, been contrived for the provisions to have been sent us to the island of Kadjak, or Schugatskish Bay, our return to Kamtschatka for the winter, would have been rendered superfluous, and our time might have been usefully employed, in surveying the southern shores of America, and returning in March again to the north.

Captain Billings resolved on an immediate and direct return to Kamtschatka, without stopping any where, which was in fact rendered necessary by a want of water and biscuit; on which account our people were kept to half allowance. Thinking ourselves however, on the 29th, in the neighbourhood of Unalaschka, Captain Billings consulted with the officers, whether we should touch at that place to take in fresh water; upon which it was agreed, that, from the lateness of the season, it was most advisable not to lose any time in hastening to Petropaulousk. We were indeed bound by our promise to restore the Aleutians, whom we had taken with us as interpreters from Unalaschka, to their homes; and, flattered with this expectation, they were perfectly contented, until they found we were bending our course direct to Kamtschatka, when their satisfaction was changed into the most poignant distress. In a fit of de-

sperate affliction, one of them cut his throat; but the wound, which was not mortal, was quickly healed by our surgeon: however, the man died soon after our arrival at Kamtschatka.

On the 30th, we discovered, in gloomy weather, to the north-west half-west, some land with two mountains, which was, however, soon intercepted from our view by the mist. The two following days we changed our longitude 1½ degree westerly, but continued in the same latitude, and saw on the 1st of September, the same land afresh to north-east 63°. Many more sea-birds than usual now made their appearance, and among them Urilas, which according to the general observation of navigators, are a sign of land being near. At this time we observed the latitude to be 53°, and calculated the longitude at 190° 2′; but afterwards, having an opportunity of rectifying our observations, by the distance of the moon from the sun, we discovered that we were then seven degrees more to the east. According to this latitude and longitude, we concluded that this land could be none of the islands known to us, and of course must be some new island.

In my opinion, there are, both north and south of the known cluster of Aleutian islands, others hitherto undiscovered, which appears corroborated by the otters, lions, and other marine animals, passing the Aleutian islands, in the month of July, from the south to the north; and afterwards returning in October, from north to south: whence we may conclude, that they spend the summer in this cluster to the north, and the winter in the one yet unknown to the south. The northern cannot, however, be situated farther than the 60th degree, nor the southern beyond the 45th, for between these degrees only are otters and sea-lions to be found.

On the 4th of September, in the afternoon, a violent squall split our top and foremast and bowsprit, which we repaired on the following day. Since our departure from America, we had continual contrary winds, and being almost always obliged to keep to windward, we had not been able to make more than half our way in fifty-two days. Petropaulousk being still at a considerable distance, we found greater economy necessary, having only twenty tuns of water remaining. All in the ships, both officers and men, now received only a pint a day; and in order not to provoke our thirst, we abstained from salt-meat, and lived entirely on boiled peas.

On the 24th, we discovered in the morning to north half-west, the lofty snow-covered mountains of the island of Tanaga, and towards the north, the lofty crater of the island of Gorelin, fifty miles distant from us. The next day we got sight of the small and almost level island Amatygnak, which was at 19

miles distance. We found our latitude then to be 50° 48′; our longitude 169° 30′; and the inclination of the needle 11° 19′ easterly.

On the 5th of October we were enabled to rectify our observations by the distance of the moon from the sun, and fixed our longitude at 167° 10′; whence we perceived that we had calculated 11° 16′ too far forwards. The error arose since our departure from Schugatskish Bay, as the tide of the sea was unknown to us, and we had much contrary wind, being mostly west, but sometimes inclining to the south, or south-east.—We had a complete east wind only once from the second of October, for forty-eight hours in succession, and never north or north-east wind. At the same time we made the observation that with north-west west; and south-west wind, the atmosphere was not thick but overcast, and that south-east, south, and east winds, on the contrary, always brought rain and mist.

On the 6th of October we had only eight ten and a half of water, and a voyage of 350 miles to the harbour of Petropaulousk; on which account our allowance was again diminished to eight small glasses a man daily, for cooking and drinking. Some bore this deprivation with perfect patience, but many were dreadfully tormented with thirst. They often took blood into their mouths in order to alleviate their sufferings. Nothing could equal the joy which the appearance of rain occasioned, nor the eagerness with which every one strove to catch it. Every change of weather, however trivial, was watched with the utmost inquietude; if it was favourable, the hopes of all were flattered with speedily reaching the harbour, and the hours were calculated which the ship would require, at the given rate, to complete the voyage; but a contrary breeze would as quickly disperse all our hopes and calculations, and cloud every countenance with the sadness of despair. At length, after four days veering and tossing about, we approached the shores of Kamtschatka, and, with indescribable delight, we perceived, on the 10th, the Shipunish promontory, and the lofty crater of Wilnishninish. We were not able to get into the Awatscha bay before the 13th, and not into the harbour till after midnight, when we laid our vessel to, in the very spot where it had lain the preceding year.

Our joy at having thus happily terminated our peculiar voyage, may be better conceived than described. Our water was already reduced to the lowest ebb, and had contrary winds detained us but another twenty-four hours, our situation would have been lamentable in the extreme. It is rather surprising, that with all our deprivations we remained healthy, and experienced no ill consequences whatever. We swallowed the first

fresh water which came within our reach with the utmost avidity, and certainly found it the sweetest beverage we had ever enjoyed in our lives. In a couple of days our whole crew was removed on shore, and quartered in the old jurts we had built for ourselves. We unrigged the ship, and brought all our stores into the magazine. We found the galliot already there, which had been sent from Ochotsk with provisions for us, and had also brought that part of the Dobroe Namereni's crew, which had been left behind.

To the close of October the weather remained fine, but was succeeded by rain and cold. In order to guard the stores collected at the fortress of Bolscherezsk, and to make room for us in our narrow dwellings, thirty-four men were sent thither for the winter.

In the preceding winter, Captain Billings had had the plan of building a new cutter to accompany the Slawa Rossii in the river Kamtschatka; and for that purpose had dispatched a carpenter and several other labourers to the town of Nishne Kamtschatsk. The command of this vessel devolving on Captain Hall by right of seniority, he set off on the 16th of December, in order to inspect its construction. The necessary materials and t ackling were sent after him on sledges, drawn by dogs.

We accompanied Captain Hall, and truly envied him his occupation, while we were obliged to drag through four winter months in total idleness. In order, however, to get rid of our time, Mr. Billings, Mr. Behring, and I, travelled, at the close of December, to Bolscherezsk, where the latter and I staid only fourteen days; but Captain Billings still longer. On our return, we were overtaken by a severe frost among the mountains which run through the middle of Kamtschatka, though at the same time it had thawed and rained in Petropaulousk, not a hundred versts distance.

Soon after this, Captain Behring went, with a part of the crew destined for manning the new cutter, to Nishne Kamtschatsk.

In the latter half of January, and the whole of February, the frost was so violent that the part of Awatscha Bay, from the interior of the harbour to the muscle bay Rakowoi, was covered with thick ice that admitted of being passed in dog-sledges with great security.

At the beginning of April we began to careen our vessel, in order to examine the under part, and clear it of the sea-weeds; for, on the whole bottom, seawort was grown out five feet long, and several sorts of muscles had stuck among it to the boards.

We were employed the whole of April in preparing for our

voyage. On the first of May, I went in a wooden baidar to the Shipunish promontory, in order to examine the contiguous bay, of which the inhabitants had said much that was useful to me. We sailed immediately from the Awatscha bay with a fair wind, north-east-half-east, directly to the steep rocky mountains of Nalatschew. To this point the shore is formed by an inconsiderable curve, and begins from Awatscha bay, with a rocky declivity, but soon after becomes sandy and level as far as the mountains. Six miles from the mountains the brook Nalatschewa discharges itself, and from thence the shore becomes again sandy and level. We lay to for the night by an island opposite to the mouth of the little brook Ostrownaga, about a mile from the nearest shore, and about five miles distant from the cape Nalatschew, which lies to the south-west, one-third west of it. Its shore is steep, and it is itself mountainous, being about a mile in extent.

On the 2d of May we proceeded strait to the Bitchewish bay, a distance of six miles, which we rowed, with a perfect calm, in two hours.

The shore extends itself from its mouth, on both sides, under lofty mountains, to the Shipunish cape towards east-south-east; to the mountain Nalatschew towards the south-west; and to the bay Wachilskaja, in which merchants' galliots used formerly to winter, where we found at its mouth a bark still existing. At its entrance the bay is a mile broad, and its interior lofty mountainous shore stretches two miles north-east-by-north. Farther on there is an inner bay, or lake, four miles in extent, into which one passes by a small strait, fifty fathoms broad, and three or four fathoms deep. More towards the middle of the lake the depth increases to fifteen fathoms, and the bottom is muddy. But in the first bay the depth, at the entrance into the lake, amounts to no more than four feet; of course only small craft, and not even these but at high water, can run into this haven, which would otherwise be very excellent. We staid the night here, and the next morning proceeded on our way back to Awatscha bay. At noon we were off the mountain Nalatschew, where we estimated the latitude at 53° 4′.

On the 5th we returned to our ship, which was entirely equipped and victualled; but the ice still occupying the haven we were prevented getting into the roads.

CHAP. V.

DEPARTURE FROM AWATSCHA BAY TO BEHRING'S ISLAND, AND FROM THENCE TO THE NORTH SIDE OF THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AS FAR AS THE ISLAND TANAGA.—OCCURRENCES DURING OUR ANCHORAGE.—VOYAGE BY THE ANDREGENOW ISLANDS TO UNALASHKA, AND ARRIVAL IN THE CAPTAIN'S HAVEN.

ON the 16th of May, 1791, we weighed anchor, and were on the point of leaving Awatscha bay; but had scarcely reached the light-house, when a contrary wind arose and obliged us to return and lie at anchor till the 19th, when, with a fair wind, west-south-west, we got into sea. Supposing that the cutter which was building at Kamtschatka must be ready, we took a straight direction up the river for the purpose of meeting with it. At the same time, having given Captain Hall intelligence of our intended route, we concerted, that if he put to sea before our arrival, he was to wait for us at the northern point of Behring's Island till the 29th of May.

On the 24th, in the morning, we descried the Kronozkish promontory, and a lofty crater, situated to the west of it. Our latitude was, at noon, 54° 13′; our longitude 162° 20′; the Kronozkish crater being 63° 30′, to the north-west, fifty miles distant from us.

Contrary winds not permitting us to approach the mouth of the river Kamtschatka, we stood out for Behring's Island, as the destined rendezvous for our vessels.

We came in sight of this island on the 27th, in the afternoon, and approaching its south-western side towards evening, the shore of which consists of lofty mountains, we stood in to the north-west, having always a west-south-west wind, which blew so fresh towards night that we could scarcely double a lofty rock that was separated from land. At midnight the island appeared sufficiently near for us to reach it with a stone's throw.

On the morning of the 28th, we sailed round the northern level shore of the island, and then from its north-eastern to the south-eastern side. At noon we estimated the latitude at 55° 14′, and the longitude at 166° 22′; being about three miles

and a half distant from the island. Here we were very near the spot where Commodore Behring, being obliged to land, on his return from America, in order to seek assistance in his distress, terminated his earthly career. We lamented very much that it was not possible for us to get nearer land, in order to visit the place where the first navigator of these seas is consigned to the peaceful grave. We would fain have heaved a sigh of regard and sorrow over his remains, and those of our unfortunate countrymen who lie buried by his side. We passed the place of meeting, and perceiving no vessel, Captain Billings resolved on steering for the Aleutian islands.

Towards evening, we were enveloped in a thick fog. Captain Billings directed our course by an English map, taken during Cook's voyage, far more northerly than the Copper Islands are there given. As this direction, according to the Russian map, would have led us strait to the middle of the Copper Islands, I made my representations to Captain Billings, who paid so little regard to the Russian map, that I persuaded him, with difficulty, to alter his course two rumbs more northerly, and by that means alone we escaped the impending danger; for the next morning the mist clearing away, we saw we had passed the northern point of the Copper Island by no more than two hundred fathoms; nay, that from the stern of our ship we could distinguish the rocks concealed under water.

All were now satisfied that this island is marked on the English map much more southerly than it ought to be.

As I am informed, solid copper is to be found in the clifts of the rocky shore, at the fall of the water, on the Copper Island, we sailed round it, and directed our course to the first inhabited and large Aleutian island, Atta.

On the 4th of June we discovered through the fog a part of the mountains on the southern side of the island Atta, which were entirely covered with snow. We were, at noon, fifteen miles south of them, and got a glimpse of the island Agatta through the mist. Their shores appear to consist of gradually sloping mountains, being thirty-four miles in extent.

At break of day, on the 5th, the summits of the mountains on the island Semitsch opened to view; and in the afternoon we passed the island Buldyr, lying in latitude 52° 40′, and longitude 176° 13′ of Greenwich; having an extent of twelve miles, consisting entirely of mountains, and encompassed with a rocky shore. About a mile and a half to the south-west we found some rocks projecting out of the water.

On the 6th we stood off the Rat Islands, the first of which, towards the west, is called Kyska, a mountainous island; the

east side of which appears more level than the west, having a flat shore.

Opposite to the north-western side, at a distance of three miles, a lofty rocky pillar elevates itself. We could not discern the southern side of the island on account of the mist. Farther on, towards the east, four inconsiderable mountainous islands presented themselves to view, but were, towards evening, lost out of sight, as we were carried away from them by a south-east wind, and encompassed by a thick mist.

On the 9th, one of the crew descried land, and pointed it to us, almost over our heads, through the mist, the declivity of Tanuga. We sounded for the depth, but found no bottom; as the mist soon after dispersed, we were presented with the spectacle of a lofty volcanic mountain, that exposed to our view, at the distance of scarcely two miles, its black and tremendously tall side of rock. We then calculated the latitude at 52° 6′, and the longitude at 180° 22′. In the afternoon the wind almost entirely abated. With the tide, and only a gentle wind, we run along the south-eastern side of Tanaga.

Its shore was, in the commencement, mountainous, but rose by a gentle elevation as we proceeded. The master of the baidars, whom we brought with us from Ochotsk, told us, as he had been on this island, that at no great distance from hence there was a large commodious bay, which was used as an anchoring station by the Russian hunters. I immediately set off in a baidar to examine it, and after making about four miles from the ship, found the way lay round an isthmus into the bay, the depth of which, at the middle of its entrance, was forty fathoms, and farther on 25; towards the left bank it gradually diminished, and half a mile from thence it sunk to seven or eight fathoms; at the bottom I discovered a black sand. On the other side the bay is an Aleutian residence, which we were prevented visiting by the approach of night, being anxious, if possible, to return to the vessel before the darkness came on. On our way back I found, on a jut of land, an Aleutian summer jurt, in which was an old woman, who informed me, that almost all the islanders, with the exception of very few, were gone to the island Atcha, to a Russian hunter's ship lying there. We had scarcely got two miles from the bay, when a heavy fog involved us in darkness; and not finding our vessel where we had left it, we saw ourselves obliged, after a long and fruitless search, to lie to by the shore. On the following day the atmosphere was clear, but we did not get sight of our vessl, and were totally unprovided with food. In this dilemma we must soon have gone in search of the Aleutian residence, if we had not, at noon, fortunately discovered the wished-for object sailing be-

hind a cape. We instantly made up to it, and learnt that the tide changing the night before had driven them to the north-east, where they had been laveering the whole night, and had not till then been able to regain their old station.

When Captain Billings was informed that the bay afforded a good anchorage, he immediately ordered us to bend our course thither. With a gentle wind, and the aid of towing, we gained the bay in the evening, which penetrates, on the western side, into the island, being about eight miles long, and five miles broad. Its shore is occasionally sandy, and most consists of a rocky, but not very tall declivity. We cast anchor opposite to two rivulets running from the mountains, in a black sandy bottom, and eight fathoms water, about half-a-mile distant from a sandy shore, under shelter of a steep promontory and lofty rocks, elevating themselves above the stream. Not far to the north of this promontory, a current of pure water eddies forth from a rock in the mountains. We could approach this stream so near as to fill our butts by the help of pails. At a distance from our anchoring-place the land elevated itself, and terminated towards the north in tall snowy mountains, from whence fire sometimes issues, but which now only emitted smoke. It appeared to be not very distant, and some of our people made the trial of going up to it, but were compelled, from the tediousness of the road, to return, bringing back only some sulphur and lava with them. The island is totally without wood, but the declivity of the mountains, and the more level parts, are covered with a tolerably long grass.

On the second day after our arrival, two Aleutians came with fresh fish to us from their habitations, on the south side of the bay; and on the 12th, we had a visit from six Aleutians in like manner, bringing fresh fish from the south-west side of the island.

On the 15th we weighed anchor, and went to the north-side of the island Tanaga. On the 16th, we found our latitude 52° 18′, and longitude 180° 56′. In the evening, at the setting of the sun, we observed the declination of the needle, to be at 16° 25′ easterly.

On the 17th, we found ourselves at noon, in the strait which separates the islands Tanaga and Kanaga. This latter island has on its north side a crater of an extraordinary height, but is otherwise altogether level. Before the strait an inconsiderable island elevates itself in one lofty eminence, called the Beaver Island, at a distance of 12 miles from us, in latitude 52° 8′, and longitude 181° 37′. Being prevented by the ruling north-east wind, from sailing round the islands Kanaga and Adach, we returned to the strait, and stood along the island

Tanaga, to the south. West of Tanaga, lies at a distance of 17 miles the island Gorelvi, being 17 miles in extent, and distinguished for its lofty volcanic mountain, which is covered with an eternal snow. Towards evening we passed the south-side of the Aleutian Islands, of which the first two are small and flat, but the third, called Illak is higher, and lies more to the south of Tanaga. Contrary winds, first from north-east, and afterwards from east, obliged us to laveer in sight of the islands Tanaga and Kanaga. The southern sides of both islands have a flat shore.

After being tossed about in a thick mist for two days, we descried on the 21st, to the left of us, a cluster of islets contiguous to each other, and extending to the island of Atcha; and in the afternoon we found ourselves in a strait, betwixt Atcha and an islet.

Through this strait, which is 48 fathoms deep, and has a gravelly bottom, we bore away to the north-east for the cluster of these islets, the shores of which are mountainous and woody, always rising more and more to the north, and terminating in a lofty crater covered with snow. We observed by this island many bays, the largest of which is called the Korowinsh haven, and very near the northern promontory of Atcha. This one also divides itself at the very entrance into two, and penetrates thus far into the interior of the island.

As soon as we were passed Atcha, we stood off with the south-east wind, straight for the island Umnak, and after passing its north-eastern side, we came in sight of the western part of Unalaschka. In the middle of the strait between these two islands, a lofty rock rises out of the water. We estimated our latitude at 53° 27′, and longitude at 191° 28′.

At ten o'clock in the evening, we approached the north-western cape of Unalasckta, which is called Makushim, after a bay, and an Aleutian place of the same name.

On the morning of the 25th, we came to the western bank of the Captain's Haven, where, close ahead of our ship, a number of whales of different species rose out of the water. Towards noon, we reached the eastern bank, where we anchored by the Aleutian residence Illuluk, in eight fathoms water.

This summer we had calculated our way so well, that from Petropaulousk hither, not a single error had crept into our estimate, so as to carry us out of our course.

As soon as our arrival was made known among the different villages, the natives came with fresh fish to our ship. Tobacco was an article of the greatest necessity among them, for which they flocked to us from the remotest parts, not only of this, but of other islands. Captain Billings strove to oblige them, by

making them presents of tobacco and other trifles, and promised them still more, if they would dry a considerable quantity of fish and berries against our return. We knew their extreme attachment to tobacco too well, not to be fully assured that they would comply with our wishes in this respect.

The woman who had accompanied us in the preceding year, was highly delighted with seeing her family, and returning to her home. The liberality of Captain Billings had supplied her with many ornaments for her person, and had so richly stocked her with tobacco and pearl-enamel, that she became an object of universal envy among her female country-women, and was esteemed the richest of all the inhabitants.

We lay at anchor for two weeks, in expectation of Captain Hall and the new cutter; but he not coming, we did not wish to lose time, and leaving him the necessary provisions and utensils, together with the surgeon Allegretti, and a hunter, in Illulik, we resumed our voyage to Behring's strait.

CHAP. VI.

DEPARTURE FROM UNALASCHKA TOWARDS THE NORTH, PAST THE ISLANDS ST. GEORGE, ST. PAUL, ST. MATTHEW, FOR THE ISLAND OF ST. LAURENCE.—ARRIVAL THERE.—DANGEROUS SITUATION OF THE 'SLAWA ROSSII.—OCCURRENCES DURING THE ANCHORAGE.—DEPARTURE FOR THE SHORES OF NORTH AMERICA, AND INTERVIEW WITH THE INHABITANTS.—ANCHORAGE IN ST. LAURENCE BAY.

ON the 8th of July we weighed anchor, and went into the sea. Captain Billings desiring to see the two islands lately discovered by the steersman Pribylow: we bore away for them in a west direction.

On the 9th, we were seventy miles to the north of Unalaschka, had 88 fathoms of water on a muddy bottom, and saw many sea-lions and sea-bears. This animal, called *phœa ursina*, is seven feet long, and of the seal species. The hair of the male is a black grey, that of the female grey, with dark spots between the fore-webbed feet. The males have a very soft hair on the breast, with a thick and tough skin: the structure of the bones is also firmer, larger, and stouter than that of the female: its head is large and round, the forehead extending over the eyes, and the snout having some long white bristles on it; the flaps of its ears are rather small, and externally overgrown with hair, but internally smooth, and standing out straight and pointed. The orifice of the ear is oval, and so constructed,

that it can be closed when it is under water. In other respects, both as to the form of its body and feet, it resembles the sea-dog. It frequents the northern parts of the Pacific Ocean, and the Southern Ocean. The males are very jealous of the females, which they keep to the number of eight or ten, forming with them and their young, a distinct herd. Their jealousy often occasions violent and bloody disputes. The Kamtschadales kill them with their darts for the sake of the fat and the skin, which in the young ones, is little inferior to the Kamtschadale otter, for the delicacy and firmness of the hair and down.

On the 12th, we concluded from our calculation, that we must necessarily be in the vicinity of the above-mentioned islands, but an impenetrable mist prevented us from seeing them. A still greater number of sea-bears were in sight to-day, than what we had seen the day before, and a number of aars,* kept hovering round our vessel.

The mist soon after dispersing, we discovered the two islands, the first of which, St. Paul's was eight miles ahead of us to north-west 25°, the second, St. George's, twenty miles behind us to south-east 57°. The shores of these islands consist of mountains of a moderate height: on the north-eastern side of St. Paul's, sinking down to a level opposite to its south-western side, is an islet, not very lofty, but very steep in ascent. At a distance of six miles from the western promontory of St. Paul's, we found ourselves in 35 fathoms water, on a bottom of stone and shells, our latitude being 56° 29′, and longitude 189° 45′.

These islands were discovered in the year 1786, by Pribylow, steersman to a merchant's ship, who finding a number of marine animals and walrus' teeth, staid with his companions for some time there, and in the space of two years caught 2320 otters, 30,000 sea-bears, 480 young otters and bears, and 8000 blue foxes, besides 700 puds of walrus' teeth, which they found on the shores, all which, when calculated at a moderate rate, produced at Ochotsk 250,000 rubles. It is necessary to observe, that the otters first spoken of, are the *mustela lutris*, a species of river animals about three feet long, with three feet united by a firm hairy web. Its head is flat, its snout thick, hair black, and extremely thick, at the same time as soft as down, particularly that on the belly, which is extremely tender and of a greyish colour. The tail is a fourth part of the length of the body. It

* The aar, or ara torda alca, is the name of a Kamtschadale fowl, of the species of the Gagara (*colymbus arcticus*) or water-hen, is found in great abundance in the country of the rocky islands. Its back, head, and neck are black, its belly white, bill long, straight, and pointed, feet dark-grey, with three toes united by a web. At Kola it is called Gegarka.

runs, dives, and swims with great agility, is found near Kamtschatka, and on the islands of the Eastern Ocean. It lives on fish and little marine animals. The skin of the Kamtschatkan otter is very dear, and in great request, on account of its firmness and good quality.

From these islands, we directed our course to the Island of St. Matthew, which is called by the English Gore's Island. The depth which had at first increased to 55 fathoms, afterwards again decreased.

On the morning of the 14th, we discovered through the mist, a small island to the north-east 50′, at a distance of 11 miles, the surface of which appeared to consist of a chain of pointed rocks hanging over each other; it has received the name of *Pinnacle* from the English. The depth was then 50 fathoms, and the bottom gravelly. As the air cleared up, we discovered the Island of St. Matthew, and as we approached it, the depth decreased to 14 fathoms. We put in near its western shore. At noon we found our latitude to be 60° 29′, and longitude 187° 15′; the little island Pinnacle lying then † the south-east, about ten miles and a half distant, and the western shore of the Island of St. Matthew six miles distant to the north-east.

We had scarcely passed the north-western point of this island, when another presented itself to view, lying three miles from the north-west of this point. In the middle of this strait the depth was 12 fathoms, and the bottom consisted of gravel and shells. As Captain Billings wished to take a nearer view of the little island, we anchored one mile and three quarters off, in 13 fathoms and a sandy bottom. In the afternoon, Mr. Billings, Mr. Merk, and myself, went on shore; and on our approaching the island, we were encompassed by a great number of sea-birds, constantly hovering around us, and causing so great a noise, that we could scarcely distinguish a word that was spoken. We parted when we got on land, some going into the interior of the island, others climbing the rocky sides of the shore, and others remaining below on the brink of the creek. A universal firing now commenced on all sides, which did great execution among the marine birds, particularly the aars, of which a great number were carried to our ships. Our hunters also killed two black foxes, and found two walrus' teeth; and one of our company was so terrified by the sight of a large white beast supposed to be a bear, that breathless and almost fainting, he hastened back to the ship. On the mountains we found large fragments of a species of flint-stone, the delicate and many-coloured veins of which were an object of extraordinary beauty. On the east side of the island there was a quantity of floating wood, near the shore;

but the west side, on the contrary, was entirely clear; which led us to the conclusion that on the shore of America opposite to the former, a large river, after running through a woody tract of country, disembogued itself into the sea.

Towards evening we weighed anchor, and stood out to the north, when a thick mist completely veiled both the islands from our view. The depth was 40 fathoms, but decreased as we proceeded northerly: we found the bottom muddy.

On the 16th, we had only 27 fathoms water, and a sandy bottom. According to our calculation, we were then in the vicinity of St. Laurence's Island, called by the English Clark's Island. We lay at anchor the whole night.

On the 17th we weighed anchor, notwithstanding the whole sea was covered with a thick mist; and after beating about in various depths of water, we found ourselves, at three in the afternoon, in only six fathoms water with a sandy bottom. We cast anchor with a quarter of the cable, but it did not bite; we then threw out a second, but with no better success. From the depth, which was then only 4½ fathoms at our poop, we concluded that we could not be far from land, and although enveloped in a thick fog, we were but too well apprized of our danger from the impetuosity of the beating waves, which increased every hour as the wind blew stronger, and the surge grew more violent.

In the mean time, we gave our anchors an equal length of cable, and remained all night in safety; but the next morning a large wave struck with immense force against the beak of our ship, and tore a cable in pieces. We then cast two anchors more, but could place little or no reliance on the cables, which were made of bad materials, and almost rotted away from the continual damp weather.

On the 20th, the wind was somewhat abated, and the mist began to disperse, upon which we discovered abaft of us, at the distance of a mile, a level shore; our latitude being now 63° 24′. In the afternoon we saw two islanders on shore, who lifted a vest up on a pole, and seemed to sway it backward and forward by way of invitation. We sent Bakow the boatswain to them in a baidar with presents; but without waiting his approach, they immediately went away. Being prevented by the surf from landing, he was obliged to return.

We found the declination of the needle to-day, according to the azimuth, to be 24° 11′ easterly.

On the 21st, the wind dropped entirely, and the atmosphere became perfectly clear, which afforded us an opportunity of descrying, directly opposite to our vessel, a remote shore, stretching far to the east, beyond which we perceived from the

tops of the mast, a large lake, and still farther on declivitous mountains occasionally covered with snow. Towards the west the shore declined in a curve, its extreme point being 14 miles distant towards south-west 50°. To the south of this point, we saw in imagination two other islets, which proved afterwards to be nothing but thick mist.

Captain Billings, Doctor Merk, Boatswain Bakow, and the Second Lieutenant Bakulin, went in two boats on shore. They reached the shore with considerable difficulty, the surf being very high, and overwhelming them with water. Captain Billings proceeded with some of them to the west, in search of a human residence. In the mean time, we descried from the top of the mast a baidar of islanders rowing towards us from an opposite side of the lake. The sailors who had been left behind on the shore perceiving them also, strove to call Captain Billings back by loud bawling; and afterwards, when they found this ineffectual, endeavoured to attract his attention by firing their guns, which, instead of producing the desired effect, unfortunately only served to terrify the savage inhabitants; who, on hearing the report of the guns, immediately made off. Thus were we prevented by act of imprudence, from forming an acquaintance with these islanders. Captain Billings returned towards evening without having succeeded in finding the object of his search.

On the 22d, we went to the eastern point of the island, keeping close to the shore, where the depth diminished from 16 to 10 fathoms, on a gravelly bottom, occasionally mixed with sand. The shore was perfectly level, but we observed, at a distance, some mountains parted off from each other. To the east-north-east some mountainous lands appeared a-head of us, which, on a nearer approach, we found to be connected together by one level shore, and, in reality, to be one single island, which has in two places on the flat shore some considerable villages. On the map of Lieutenant Sinde we find, instead of this one great island, a number of smaller ones marked, which is doubtless a similar error to what we made from a distant observation.

In the afternoon we stood round the south-eastern side, and went to the north-eastern cape of the island, the shore of which somewhat curves inward; six miles and a half from the south-eastern cape we found a village close by the water. Towards evening we passed the north-east cape of St. Laurence, from which we observed, at the distance of four miles and a half, three islets, close to each other. On one of them was a pyramidal kekun, round which plank huts and poles for drying fish were erected, but we saw no human beings; from which we

supposed that the inhabitants of the other islands came here, from time to time, for the purpose of fishing.

In the night of the 24th the wind veered round to the north, and blew so strong and contrary a gale that we were obliged to haul in all sail; but being only twenty miles off St. Laurence, we bore away to the east, and getting round the island lay to for the night.

On the 26th we found ourselves in lat. 63° 10′; and longitude 195° 25′, thirty-three miles distant from the north-east shore of St. Laurence; consequently in the spot where Anderson's Island is marked on Captain Cook's map, but we discovered nothing, although the horizon was sufficiently clear.

On the morning of the 28th we saw the cape on the shore of America, called by the English Cape Rodney. At noon we calculated our latitude at 64° 11′, and the longitude at 193° 58′. Cape Rodney was then twenty-seven miles distant from us to the north-west 56°; *Hedge* island twenty-six miles to the north-west 63°. In the evening we anchored eight miles from the American shore, in 14 fathoms water and a muddy bottom.

Mr. Billings, Mr. Merk, Boatswain Bakow, and Mr. Woronin, the draughtsman, went in two boats on shore, and towards evening one of them was sent back with the intelligence, that they had found inhabitants, and having met with a kind reception from them, they should pass the night on land.

On the 29th we saw behind the cape a large baidar full of Americans coming towards us. They stopped at no great distance from us, so that we could distinguish them without a glass. The baidar was occupied by nine men, having at its stern an extended bladder hung on a pole, and at the poop two red foxes on another pole, which we, of course, regarded as friendly signals. They continued, however, some time in their position without offering to approach, and with their hands raised aloft. I commanded the sailors who were on the deck to do the same, as a token that we were unprovided with any offensive weapons.

At length taking courage they came on board; but as they did not understand our interpreters we could have but little conversation with them. They had some red foxes, some vests of young reindeer and Alpine hares, wooden bowls, and different trifles, made of walrus' teeth, which they exchanged with our sailors for coral, pearl-enamel, and buttons, but no tobacco.

The Alpine hare, *Alpinus*, is of the size of a marmot, with a longish head, a snout like that of a hare, large ears, rounded in the form of a funnel, a thick body, short legs, the fore-

feet having five toes, with a stout short toe, the hind feet four. The soles of its feet are overgrown with thick black hair, and, in the place of a tail, it has a fat excrescence of the size of a nut. Its hair is yellow, tipped with a dark colour, and its voice whistling. It has two teats near its hind legs, and four under the breast. It is found in the Siberian Alps, where, in the month of August, it nibbles off the grass, dries and conceals it in the clefts of the mountains.

As soon as this traffic was at an end, they were on the point of departing; but our people commencing a Russian song, they turned back, came again on board, and listened with great attention. They then sang themselves, in their way, to which two of them danced. This dance consisted of many vehement gesticulations of the whole body, particularly of the hands and head, which they twisted round on all sides with great dexterity, at the same time springing from place to place, in conformity with the singing and beating of the drum.

These Americans are of a middle stature, and generally of a brown complexion, although we saw some white among them. They cut their hair after the manner of the Jakuts, whom they greatly resemble, except that they approach nearer to the Europeans. They have a more open cheerful physiognomy than the Americans we saw in Schugatschkish Bay. In their ears they wore an ornament of pearl enamel, and in the perforations of the under lip, on both sides the mouth, they stuck two alabaster stones in the form of a shirt-button. Their dress consisted of short vests of reindeer skin, and breeches of seahound's skin, without any covering for the feet. I made these visitors some trifling presents, which they accepted with evident marks of satisfaction, and took their leave with the promise of returning very speedily.

Towards evening Captain Billings returned, leaving the rest on shore. In the night a thick mist arose, which did not clear up before the close of the next day, when the boat arrived, but six sailors were still left behind with the baidar, which they had obtained in exchange for pearl-enamel. We were very uneasy at their stay, apprehending lest some accident had happened; but were relieved the next morning from our anxiety by their safe return. They assigned the darkness as the reason of their staying out, having been unexpectedly overtaken by night, and having sought in vain for the vessel.

During our anchoring here, we observed that the current of the sea along the shore from Norton's-Bay to west-south-west, makes mostly half a mile, and sometimes a mile and a half in an hour.

On the 31st we weighed anchor and bore up to *Hedge* island, called by the Americans Ajak. At noon we observed the latitude to be 64° 34, the longitude 193° 31′, and the island Ajak to be five miles from us to the south-west 67°. In the afternoon the wind dropped entirely, and we came to an anchor in ten fathoms water and a pebbly bottom, at a distance of two miles from the shore of America. Here the same Americans visited us as had come the day before, and with them many others whom we did not know. They brought us similar articles, and carried on a brisk trade with our sailors. Glass beads were in the greatest request with them, for which they paid most liberally. Captain Billings bought a single-seated baidar for one row of them only; and the purchaser concealed them immediately they were in his possession, probably from an apprehension that we might repent of our inconsiderate bargain, and wish to retreat. This baidar was as large, and constructed in the same manner, as that of the Kadjukers, only with this difference, that it was not covered with the hides of the sea-lion, but with those of the walrus, which, on account of their thickness, had been parted three times.

A north wind springing up toward evening we weighed anchor and steered between Ajak and Cape Rodney, on which we found several summer jurts erected in different places. On the first of August we observed our latitude at noon to be 60° 40′, and longitude 192° 27′. In the afternoon we saw, to north-west 3-4ths west, the mountainous island which is called by the Americans *Okiben*, but by the Engligh *King Island*; and in the evening were two miles distant from it. It is five miles in circumference: from the inaccessible rocks with which it was girt and the wildness of its aspect, we judged it to be uninhabited, but afterwards we learned from the Tschukshens that some families actually resided there.

On the morning of the 2d we descried through the mist a small island, the smallest of the Needle isles, lying in Behring's strait, and at noon we came in sight of the other two. The first was 21 miles from us to the north-west, 15°; the second 20 miles, to north west, 4°; the third 15 miles to the north east 14°. The first two are mountainous, the latter has the appearance of a small hill. We calculated our latitude at 65° 24′, longitude 190° 29′; the depth was 28 fathoms, and the bottom sandy.

On the 3d we laveered with a north wind in Behring's Strait, betwixt the north eastern cape of Asia and the north western cape of America. Both shores are mountainous and woody, and the mountains occasionally covered with snow.

In the afternoon of the 4th we laveered so far to the north as

to be able to put into the bay of St. Laurence. At its entrance we saw on the right bank of the rivulet Uragma, some summer jurts of Tschuktschens erected. We ran four miles and a half into the interior of the bay, and came to an anchor in six fathoms water, and a sandy bottom, on a level spot of the right shore, where the plank huts, or summer-jurts of the Tschuktschens stood. No sooner had we cast anchor and began to furl our sails, than we discovered some Tschuktschens putting off towards us in a large baidar. They did not approach very near, but beckoned us to the shore, shewing us a paper done up in the form of a letter. We invited them on board by one of our Cossacks, who spoke Korakish, but either not understanding him, or fearing us, they went off. Upon this Captain Billings, Doctor Merk, and I, went on shore, and were met by the inhabitants with great friendship, who invited us into their jurts, at the same time requesting us to leave our swords in the sloop.

"We," said they, "come to you as friends, without any arms, but you must do the same." Their request being complied with, they conducted us into their jurts, where they delivered us the folded paper which we had seen in their hands. It was a report to Captain Billings by Sotnik Kobelew, who had been sent in the year 1787 from the fortress of Nishne-Kolymsk, with the interpreter Daurkin, in order to announce our coming to the Tschuktschens. Kobelew observed, that he had waited in company with the Reindeer Tschuktschens here, and on the eastern cape, for the arrival of our vessel, from the 28th of June to the 26th of July; but his companions not choosing to stay any longer, he had been obliged to go with them in a baidar, by water, to the island of Kalutschin, in the Frozen Ocean, where the Tschuktschens had left their reindeer at their principal settlement. He added, that they should stay there till the 15th of August, and after that go with the reindeer into the interior of the country. Kobelew made no mention of the interpreter Daurkin, concerning whom we enquired of our Tschuktschens, and received for answer, that he was living with the Reindeer Tschuktschen Imlerat-Kireujew, who was depasturing at no great distance from this place. They promised to give him intelligence of our arrival.

CHAP. VII.

ARRIVAL OF THE REINDEER TSCHUKSCHENS WITH THE INTERPRETER DAURKIN. — DESCRIPTION OF THIS PEOPLE.—ENTERPRIZE OF CAPTAIN BILLINGS, AND HIS DEPARTURE WITH THE TSCHUKSCHENS FOR THE RIVER KÓLYMA.

TOWARDS evening the interpreter Daurkin came with seventy-two large baidars full of Reindeer Tschukschens, and their Troi Imlerat Kirenjew. We soon gained the confidence and good-will of our new guests by civility and suitable presents. They hauled their baidars on shore by the side of our vessel, and converted them into dwellings in the usual manner, visiting us regularly every day, and observing every thing with looks of extreme curiosity and admiration. But nothing could equal their astonishment at witnessing the effect of our guns, which we fired with balls into the sea for their entertainment. In the mean time they carried on a brisk trade with us; bartering their fox-skins, walrus' teeth, arms and utensils, for tobacco, enamel, and beads. Both the men and women of this nation are mostly of the middle stature; there are, however, some taller individuals among them. They are all stout built, having a healthy appearance, with an open physiognomy, not so savage as is usually found among rude nations. In their features they resemble the Americans of Cape Rodney, cutting their hair in a similar manner, and wearing similar clothes: however, the men do not, like them, adorn their lips with pendant bones. The women, on the contrary, puncture several parts of their body in various forms particularly two semicircles on both cheeks, which unite in cross directions. They bind up their hair in two queues, like the female Russians, but do not twist them in a tuft on the crown, or cover them, but let them hang loosely behind. The male and female dress is very similar, consisting of vests and trowsers; but the upper vest of the female is somewhat shorter, and the under one is fastened to the long trowsers. In the dry season of summer, they wear alaschas or short boots of rowdug, or tanned rein-deer-hides, but in damp and rainy days they put on long torbasas, or wide and long boots without heels, made of tanned sea-dog's skin.

Like the Tunguses and Koraks, the Tschukschens are divided into Reindeer or nomadical Tschukschens and settlers. The former are the most numerous, and wander from place to place; but the latter, who are only few in number, are altogether poor people; who having by some misfortune lost their reindeer, their only wealth, are compelled to fix their abode near the sea, and from thence to draw their subsistence. They live all the winter in mud-jurts, and the summer in huts of planks, and obtain an ample provision from the water. They prepare, not only for themselves, but for the Reindeer Tschukschens, the fat of fish and marine animals; sew summer shirts and covering for the feet out of reindeer's entrials, for which they receive, from the latter, upper garments and winter covering for the feet; reindeer's skins, and others, fetched from Ischiga; also tobacco, and other Russian commodities.

The Tschukschens, thus stationed, keep dogs for want of reindeer for their winter excursions, which they harness to sledges made of walrus teeth, similar to the Russian tschunkas, which are without any back or sides, and consist only of the sledge and some cross-beams nailed over.

The dogs here resemble those of Ochotsk, but are rather smaller. Six or seven are harnessed abreast, and so close to the sledge, that they may be reached with a whip which the driver swings round either to the right or left, as he would have the dogs go.

In the summer they paddle about the sea in large baidars, commonly from 20 to 25 feet long, 4 feet broad, and 2¼ deep. The hulk is made out of the floating wood from the sea, very nicely cut out and joined together with strips of whalebone; and the whole is covered with walrus hide, doubly or trebly split, in proportion to its thickness. A baidar, when quite ready, is so light, that two persons may carry it with convenience. The Tschukschens not only coast in them along the shore, but pass over to the neighbouring islands, or even through Behring's strait to America. As it is very unsteady, it is mostly moved by oars rather than sails; and whenever the latter are used, extended bladders are tied on the sides to prevent it from oversetting The baidars which we saw at Cape Rodney resembled these in every respect.

Both the wandering and stationary Tschukschens are divided into very small communities consisting only of families of one common origin. They have no civil authorities, or chiefs; but in every such community the richest, or the father of a numerous family, is the most esteemed. They show him no other deference than to receive his good council, or be deterred from evil proceedings by a warning; but he has no power to enforce his

admonitions by punishments. With such an anarchy it would certainly be a subject of surprise, that this people should have hitherto obstinately maintained their independence against frequent and considerable bodies of Russians who have been sent against them, if we had not already seen the extraordinary effects which a love of liberty has in producing union among the members of a community.

The principal cause of the campaigns against the Tschukschens, was a neighbouring people, the Koraks, who being at perpetual enmity with the former, and yet unable to stand against so powerful and valiant a foe, were compelled to put themselves under the protection of the Russians, and on that account to become tributary to the latter. With the aid of so powerful an ally, the Koraks sought every opportunity of urging their complaints against the Tschukschens, and often induced the Russians to take up arms against them upon frivolous and false pretexts. Whenever any reconciliation took place, the harmony which succeeded was but of short duration, being generally interrupted by some charge of the Koraks. Peace and war, therefore, commonly depended upon the judgment of the commander at the fortresses of Anadyr and Ischiga; but on the demolition of the fortress of Anadyr, and the introduction of a government at Ischiga, these differences with the Tschukschens having been compromised, we tried to allure them by kind treatment, and found our efforts crowned with success. They now come yearly to Ischiga and Mohne Kolymsk, in order to deal with the Russians, upon which occasion many of them also bring their japak or tribute.

This commonly takes place at the close of February, or the commencement of March; and when their trade is finished, they go off immediately to the Frozen Ocean, and spend their whole summer in catching fish and sea-animals, for which they have baidars that are not only fitted for coasting, but for more remote excursions. They very often pass Behring's strait in these, attack the habitations of the savage Americans, and, after plundering them, carry away many prisoners to their homes.

Much as the Tschukschens excel all their neighbours in valour, they are much inferior to them in civilization of manners. They not merely kill their new-born infants for any defect, but the children relentlessly dispatch their parents on account of imbecility or disease; nay, it often happens that a sick person will solicit the favour of being killed, with the idea of dying more heroically than if he follows the course of nature, for they seem to think that a natural death is only fitted for old women. They are vindictive and cruel to those who offend them, without regard to relationship or friendship, of which they gave us an instance

themselves of a son having killed his father for charging him with cowardice and awkwardness.

Superstition and superstitious rites are less frequent among them than among other savages; but they have some solemnities, particularly at the burning the bodies of the deceased; which as I had no opportunity of witnessing during our short stay, I am not able to describe. Nor can I speak more circumstantially of their religion, having perceived no traces of any thing like divine worship. We found, indeed, some wooden and bone images among them, on which they had put clothing, but at the same time held them in so little estimation that they bartered them for mere trifles. At Billing's request they gave us a specimen of their dancing, which was very similar to that of the Americans at Cape Rodney, with this difference only, that they hopped more, and sprang from place to place. After they had done dancing, the men seated themselves on the bare earth, and the women also, but in a semicular line, drawing their vests off the right shoulder, and thus exposing the arm that was punctured in various forms. They then began their song, to which they made a suitable motion with the right arm, one time as if they would take up something from the ground, and another time as if they would lay it on their knees, and then again bending their head and body to one side. The first in the rank took the lead, and was followed by the rest, who, keeping their eyes fixed on her, strove to imitate her movements in the exactest manner possible.

The main object of our visiting these shores, was the making a second experiment to penetrate into the Frozen Ocean, from Behring's Strait round the Schalazkish promontory. We had resolved on this undertaking, but were deterred from putting it into execution by our friends the Tschukskens, who constantly ramble along the shores of the Frozen Ocean; and assured us, that it was utterly impossible to advance in vessels of any magnitude, they themselves being sometimes unable to proceed in their baidars, although they kept as close as possible to the shore. We gave fuller credit to this assurance, from remembering that Captain Cook, and after him Captain Clarke, had made unsuccessful efforts to penetrate to the west through the Frozen Ocean. We accordingly renounced this idea, and Captain Billing resolved on encompassing the shore of this sea, and surveying the Schalazish cape, in company with the Tschukschens and a small party of our men. To this end he persuaded the Troka Imlerat Kirenjew to carry him, with his rein-deer, to the fortress of Nishne-Kolymsk.

On the 13th of August the captain resigned over the command to me, and repaired, with the Tschukschens in fourteen

baidars, to the bay of Metschigman, in the vicinity of which was Imlerat's settlement. He took with him Dr. Merk, his assistant Meir, the boatswain Batakow, the first surgeon Lehmann, the interpreter Daukin, and three hunters, leaving me orders to survey the bay of Anadyr, to proceed from thence to Unalaschka, and winter there; in the spring to return to Kamtschatka; and after having examined the sea between the Kurilian islands, to leave the vessel in the harbour of Petropaulousk, and go with the men to Ochotsk.

CHAP. VIII.

DEPARTURE FROM THE BAY OF ST. LAWRENCE TO UNALASCHKA. — ARRIVAL AT CAPTAIN'S BAY. — IMPOSING A TRIBUTE ON THE ISLANDERS.—ARRIVAL OF THE TOJA OF THE ISLAND ATCHA, AND THE ALEUTIANS OF THE ANDREJANOW ISLAND. — SEA-LION CHACE.— SCURVY AMONG THE MEN.

THE departure of Captain Billings was immediately succeeded by my own. I weighed anchor the next day, even in a perfect calm, and was towed off between the narrow cape and the exterior sandbank. The depth of this place amounted to 2½ fathoms. On going round the cape, a west wind arose, with which we managed to get under sail. The depth increased to 5 fathoms, and the bottom was sandy. After passing the shallows we lay-to for a time.

We did not observe any tide while we lay at anchor.

On going again under sail we ran straight through the bay of St Lawrence. The depth in the centre was 25 fathoms in a sandy bottom. The breadth of the mouth, from the north-east to the south-western cape, amounts to 11 miles. On the shore of this latter we discovered, at the foot of the mountains, and in the vicinity of the brooks, the habitations of stationary Tschukschens in four different places.

Two miles further we stood round the rocky mass, forming the south-eastern point of the promontory at the mouth of the bay, and kept along the shore first 8¾ miles to the west, and afterwards 4½ miles to west-south-west. The depth amounted to 15, 13, and 10 fathoms, with a gravelly and sandy bottom. The mountains grew more level, and were intersected by various clefts. The coast that immediately bounded the water was an entire flat. At a distance of five miles a-head of us we discovered the point of a shore, on which was a large settlement of the Tschukschens. From this point commences the bay of Metschigmena, beyond which the shore bends to south-south-east, running onward into

mountains, and occasionally declining into a perfectly level surface.

On the 15th we calculated the latitude at 64° 37′, the longitude at 188° 11′. The depth was 12 fathoms, and the bottom pebbly. In the afternoon the weather clearing up, which had been for some time hazy, we discovered to south-west, at a distance of 17 miles, a mountainous shore, into which the two bays, Geljagin and Ketschekeyum, penetrated. According to the account of the Tschukschens, there were three islands at the mouth of the former; but we could distinguish only one of small magnitude, probably owing in part to the mist which was not entirely dispersed, and in part to the nearness of the two first to the shore. At seven in the evening we descried to north-west, 76° a considerable settlement of Tschukschens, and towards midnight we were opposite to the southern point of Tschukotskoi Noi, and lay-to till the morning, in order to examine it more narrowly.

On the 16th a violent wind and heavy mist arising, we found it necessary to continue lying-to, and remained till the 18th off the shore of the above-mentioned bay, in the constant expectation of clearer weather; but no change taking place, we resolved on steering for the island of St. Matthew, in order to recruit our almost exhausted stock of wood from the floating logs that pass that shore in great quantities.

On the 19th the wind changed, becoming first southerly, and afterwards south-easterly; the mist likewise dispersed, and opened to our view the island of Clark, or St. Lawrence, called by the Tschukschens Eumugjen. The Tschukschens pass over to it in their baidars, in order to exchange their baidars and large whale-bone with the Russians for various trifles. At noon we observed the latitude to be at 63° 23′, the longitude 196° 39′.

When we first came to an anchor off this island, we fancied we saw through the mist two small islands, which must have been only mist; for after the most diligent search in clear weather, I could discover nothing. I should conceive some of Lieutenant Sinde's islands to have been of a similar nature; and it is most probable for Captain Cook to have been in like manner mislead, for Anderson's island, another lying to the north of Clarke's, were not to be found in the places assigned them, although we examined the different parts in perfectly clear weather.

In the afternoon we approached St. Lawrence's island, the first and most conspicuous part of which, its north-eastern promontory, appeared to be a small distinct island, until, on a nearer survey, we found it united with the former by a plain. The English mariners are of opinion that this is the cape to which Commodore Behring gave the name of St. Lawrence; but I

consider it more probable for him to have taken the mountains of the large island, which are infinitely higher, and more conspicuous, for this cape; for which reason the island is more entitled to the name of St. Lawrence, than Clarke.

With a fair east and north-east wind on the 20th, we got near the island of St. Matthew, which the mist concealed from our view. In the evening the wind grew stronger, and continued rising all night, so as to be actually stormy towards morning.

On the 22d the wind abated; but the sea running high, we were driven to south-west. Till the 26th I waited in vain for a change of weather, by which I might draw nigh to the shore of the island; at length our very reduced stock of wood obliged us to turn our thoughts to some other resource, and we accordingly resolved on steering for the island of Unalaschka.

On the 27th we stood off the Pribylow's islands, and the next morning we passed the southernmost of them, St. George's Island. At 9 o'clock it was 21 miles distant from us to the north half-east, our latitude being 55° 57′ and longitude 191° 6′. On the morning of the 29th we came in sight of Unalaschka: at noon the cape between the place Weselowsk and the mouth of the Captain's-haven, was 38 miles distant from us, to the south-east 80°; from whence we perceived, that we had calculated our latitude from Lawrence-bay always 46 miles too easterly.

Towards evening we came to an anchor off the eastern side of the island of Amaknak. The day following we proceeded as far as the village Illuluk, and took up our former station there. Here I learnt that our other vessel under the command of Captain Hall had run into this bay, and after a stay of 13 days for victualling and watering, had put to sea again.

Perceiving that half a mile from our anchoring-place to the south-west of the island, there was a better station for our vessel on the other side of a little island, I accordingly proceeded to the spot, and lay at cable's length between two shores.

Our first concern now, was the providing ourselves with a sufficiency of wood, for which purpose we daily collected the floating logs from the adjacent parts, and conveyed them to our ship in baidars.

On the 2d of September some Aleutians informed me that they discovered a single-masted vessel at sea, towards the western shore of Captain's-haven; but not being able to give me any farther satisfactory account, I mounted the summit of the mountain on the islanda Amaknak, where, through a telescope, I descried a vessel, which, from its equipment, could be no other than the newly-built cutter under captain Hall's command. I immediately went in a sloop to it, and was welcomed by the whole crew with the most heartfelt delight. According to their own account,

they had been in the track after us during the whole summer, but had been prevented putting to sea until after the time appointed for meeting our vessel. It being a calm, the new vessel, which had received the name of Tschernoi Orel (Black Eagle) from its builder, came to an anchor first near the western shore of the Captain's haven, close by the village of Natykinsk, from whence it was towed in the evening alongside the Slawa Rossii.

On the 3d of September our officers held a consultation on the properest place for passing the winter, in which it was unanimously decided, that, in consequence of the distance of Kamtschatka and the lateness of the season, it was most adviseable for us to take up our abode off Unalaschka, and at the same time to remain on board our vessels. Captain Billings had, indeed, recommended for the crew to be dispersed among the different villages of the Aleutians; but, independent of the burthen which their support would have been to a people oftentimes unable to maintain themselves, the vehement and tempestuous winds which at present raged, made it altogether impossible to find any secure anchoring-station. We therefore determined, for the sake of saving our present stock of sea-provision, on curtailing the daily allowance, and on using every effort to recruit ourselves, which circumstances would admit of.

In order to lighten the vessel and preserve our stores, I had a sort of magazine erected of poles, which were covered with thick grass instead of planks; and for a bakehouse as well as seperate dwelling for the sick, had a jurt built on a shore of floating wood.

On the 12th, we proceeded to execute that part of our commission, which required us to number the inhabitants of the places subject to the Russian empire, to regulate the Japak or tribute in future to be levied, to acquire the good-will of the islanders by presents, and confer honorary gold, silver, and copper medals, in the name of the empress on the most respectable. We profited by the opportunity which presented itself on that day, when the Aleutians were collected together, to receive the presents promised them by Captain Billings for the preparation of dry fish, berries, and roots. We accordingly distributed rewards among them, and dismissed them with still greater promises. They readily acceded to the tribute imposed upon them, and engaged to discharge it at the commencement of winter, both for themselves and for all who might go to the chace, taking upon themselves the management of the whole matter. Hitherto the Japak had been imposed only on two or three, selected by our hunters, and on that account called Jassashnas.

By the middle of September we had our magazines construct-

ed, into which our provisions and stores were transported out of the ships.

In calm weather the Aleutians brought us stock-fish and roach from time to time. The inhabitants of this place catch their fish on the western shore of Captain's-haven, with tackling of whale-sinews or thin sea-cole, to which they tie a bone or iron-hook, sticking on it a piece of fish, or the root of Angelica, or some other herb of a particuler description fetched from Alaksa, which has a powerful smell.

For their fish, we made the Aleutians some trifling acknowledgments. Tobacco, fine needles, and goats-hair were the principal objects of their choice. With the latter they decorated their vests, making it also serve instead of thread in puncturing, for which they likewise use white hair from the tails of horses, and rein-deer hair. They in like manner shewed a partiality for white and red enamel, with which the women adorn their clothes, being very much pleased with the Russian dress, particularly the jackets of nankeen, the shirts, trowsers, and handkerchiefs.

On the 2d of October we had so violent a storm, that our cables were broken, by which we were fastened to the shore.

At this period we were visited by the chief troja of the island Atcha, of the name of Pankow, who came to us from Unimak in a large baidar of the Andrejanows islands. He had been on visit to his relations in Unimak, and at the same time had distributed the regulations which he had brought with him for all the islanders in the year 1789, when he went to Kamtschatka with a merchantman.

This troja wore a vest of light red cloth with gold fringe, and a velvet cap, presented to him by her Imperial Majesty. He spoke tolerably pure Russian, and discovered in his conversation a superiority of knowledge and discernment over all the other trojas. We learned from him the number of inhabitants on the Andrejanow islands, in each distinct place, as also the particular number of males. He was attended by the trojas of the above-mentioned places, with whom he consulted about the tribute they had each to pay. In our turn we distributed medals among them in the name of her Imperial Majesty; assigning to Pankow one of gold, with several other presents.

Pankow was accompanied by 25 Aleutians from the Andrejanow Islands, 14 of whom were in a large baidar, and the rest in small single-seated baidars. In their passage through the very broad strait between Signam and Ammachta, they were so tossed about by a storm, as they informed us, that they were obliged to lighten the vessel of its tackling and stores, and were driven to and fro for forty eight hours, on which occasion one

manin a small baidar was separated from them, and had not been heard of since.

In a violent wind and a swelling sea, the Aleutians are obliged to keep in one station as much as possible, for which reason they tie all their baidars in a row to one another; and that they may not be dashed together by the waves, they put bladders in the spaces between, and point the head of their barks against the waves until the wind changes.

The Andrejenow Aleutians are perfectly similar to those on our island, both in appearance and mode of living; having even in their language no other visible difference than what was occasionally to be observed in the position of the words and their accentuation. The dress of both males and females was perfectly alike. The women wear the same ornament in their ears and nose, with this single difference, that the bones which the former stick in the under lip are much smaller, and the holes are pierced wider apart on the side of the mouth. In the middle of the cheeks they puncture a little black double circle, obliquely over the middle of the forehead a double line, and over the nose betwixt the eye-brows two little crooked stripes.

In the beginning of October, the Subaltern Chudakow was sent out to survey the Aleutian Islands, upon which the Aleutians also set off from the Andrejenow Islands for Umnak, where they intended wintering.

At the close of this month the Aleutians began the sea-bear chace, which continued till November. These animals return from the northern to the southern countries, and in their course enter the bays of this island, upon which the Aleutians pursue them in their baidars. They know pretty accurately the spot where they rise up out of the water, and two or three men to a bear plant themselves in a convenient position for casting their darts at him, as soon as he makes his appearance. Thus by repeated wounds with their darts every time he rises, they at length completely exhaust and cripple him; but that he may not sink immediately on receiving the mortal stab, they affix bladders to their darts. He only has a right to the skin of the animal who inflicts the first wound.

The chace of otters and other aquatic animals is subject to similar laws. The first successful darter receives half the skin and the entrails, and has besides the right of assigning the other half to any one of the hunters he pleases; the second successful aim entitles the person to the neck, and the remaining entrails; the third takes the bladder; the fourth and fifth can claim the fore feet; the fifth and sixth the hind feet. The flesh is shared equally among all the parties concerned.

At the commencement of the year's chace, the person to

whose share the first sea-lion falls, distributes his portion of flesh among all the Aleutians of his place; but they are obliged to return him all the bones, which being collected together, are thrown back into the sea.

The commencement of the sea-lion-chace terminates the fishery, the weather being usually too cold, and the winds too vehement. The favourite food of the Aleutine is the flesh of sea-animals, which, when consumed, is supplied by shell-fish, roots, and sea-wort; some of them indeed, in summer, lay bye dry fish, roots, and fat, which is, however, generally in too small quantities to last any length of time. The sea, therefore, remains, at all times, their grand resource; one while supplying them with an abundance of fish or animals for their pursuit, and another time casting on its shore many delicacies which require no labour to obtain. In this manner the inhabitants pass an easy life heedless of futurity.

In the evening of the 5th, a strong wind rose from the west, which tore the cable of the Slawa Rossii, that was no sooner supplied by another than it was instantly torn again. The storm lasted three days and nights, and burst forth from the clefts of the mountains with such impetuosity, that the boats and empty casks, lying on the shore, were rolled down into the sea.

Hitherto we had procured fuel from the willows that grew on the shore of a brook that ran into the bay of Natykinsk; but in consequence of a heavy fall of snow, and the brook being frozen, we could not float any more willows down the stream, but we found others at the farther extremity of another brook near the village of Illuluk, whither we sent our men after it on foot; an exercise that served as a very efficacious preventative against the scurvy, which was beginning to make its appearance.

The 19th, being calm weather, the Aleutians went fishing at our request, but caught only two shell-fish.

On the 21st, we dispatched two of our hunters to shoot fowl. Three of them put themselves into a treble-seated baidar, with the view of crossing the strait; but were scarcely off from the shore when a sudden squall upset their unsteady bark, and dislodged its contents into the water. Two of the men saved themselves, but the third was drowned. The complaints of our people respecting the smallness of their allowance becoming too urgent, we were obliged to give them their ordinary portion of peas, butter, and meat.

At the close of December the scurvy had increased the number of our sick to twelve. We strove to afford them all possible assistance, by procuring fresh food, for which pur-

pose six or seven shooters were daily sent out after wild fowl. On lucky days they usually brought from three to six birds of different sorts, as urilas, sea-ducks, mews, wild-geese, and occasionally a woodcock, or some other land-bird.

On the 2d and 3d of January the weather was hazy but calm. Some Aleutians then went again to fish, and brought us twelve stock-fish and two roaches, each of which weighed two pounds and a half. In the middle of January our patients with the scurvy were increased to the number of twenty-three.

The high wind which blew from the 19th to the 25th drove a whale to the western shore of Captain's-bay, and afterwards threw it on the island of Uknadok. The islanders gave us information of it, enquiring, at the same time, whether we were not in want of oil. We ordered twelve puds for burning in our lamps. Although the fish was only eighteen feet long, it proved extremely serviceable to the Aleutians in their approaching scarcity, and was shared among all the inhabitants of the surrounding villages.

On the 8th of February, we had still twenty-three sick of the scurvy, and two dead.

CHAP. IX.

DEPARTURE FOR THE NORTHERN SIDE OF UNALASCHKA.—ARRIVAL AT THE VILLAGE OF MAKUSCHINSK.—GAMES OF THE ISLANDERS.—BAYS ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE ISLAND.—CURE OF A SICK WOMAN BY A SHAMAN.—ATROJA ACTING AS SHAMAN.—RETURN TO THE VESSEL.

ACCORDING to the information of some Aleutians, there were some beautiful bays on the western side of Unalaschka, which, as they had hitherto been unnoticed by any one, I took upon myself to survey and describe. I accordingly set off on the 13th of February, in a treble-seated baidar, attended by a few islanders in single-seated ones. I had but one sailor with me, and the troja of Illuluk, baptized by the name of Elisei Vupyschew, who spoke tolerably good Russian, and served as interpreter. I was obliged after the manner of my companions to draw on an upper garment of fishes' entrails, to put a wooden hat on my head, and take the oar in my hand. My compass was fastened before me in a direction that I could use it at pleasure; and the sailor who was in a small baidar, carried the lead for sounding as I desired.

As soon as we were clear of the western shore of Captain's-

haven, we stood to the north-west along the steep rocky shore of the northern side of Unalaschka, as far as the open bay of Weselowsk, which penetrates three quarters of a mile into the island. On the shore of a little brook which discharges itself into it from a cleft in the mountain, lies the settlement of Weselowsk, consisting of only two jurts, inhabited however by thirty-one persons of the male sex. Opposite to this village, a rocky islet rises in the bay, that is very distinctly observed from the sea, being much more prominent than the interior flat shore of the bay.

We spent the night in this place, and pursued our course in the morning. The shore continued to be one rocky steep towards south-south-west, as far as the other bay Sachtupik, which extends for half a mile into the interior of the island. It receives the waters of two brooks from the mountains, the foot of which forms the depressed gravelly shore.

Eight miles from Weselowsk we passed a volcanic crater, called by the Aleutians, Aijagin. It is higher than all the other mountains of Unalaschka, with a summit more level than pointed; that on the southern side of the island has the appearance of being almost flat; all eruptions have long since ceased, and nothing now remains but occasonal smoke. Earthquakes are likewise now very rare, which were formerly frequent and so violent as to overturn jurts and pendant rocks. On the summit of this crater the Aleutians collect sulphur and lava; from which latter they make points for their darts.

The weather this morning was very dull, attended with only a gentle east breeze, that strengthened towards the afternoon, and occasioned a vehement surge. The Aleutians pursued their course with the most perfect tranquillity and unconcern, while I was in no small trepidation, fancying that every billow which approached me would inevitably swallow me and my little bark. Nor were my fears without foundation, for though the inhabitants are very expert in managing these boats, and preserving the exact equilibrium with their oars on the approach of every wave, yet such is the smallness of these conveyances, mine not being more than a foot and half broad in the middle, that the slightest error in guiding them may be, and often is, attended with the most serious consequences.

Fifteen miles from Weselowsk the shore became very sandy, forming, by a curve inwards, a sort of bay, which received the waters of a brook from the neighbouring mountains. Farther on, the shore winds to the norh-east, and finally to the east, terminating with the village of Makuschinsk, about two miles and a half distant from the curve before-mentioned, and lying at the mouth of a small river, formed by three lakes, and united by small water-falls. In this river much hump-backed salmon and

similar fish make their appearance about the beginning of May. There are 45 Aleutian inhabitants in this village, who are distributed in two large jurts.

During a stay of three days, I found the games here which are usual among these people, and which continue through the winter until the beginning of spring, or until the appearance of the whales. Their origin is ascribed to the Shamans, who assure them that the spirits are pleased with such performances, and will, in return, send plenty of whales on shore. The performers wear masks, resembling the faces of the spirits which have appeared to the Shamans; and, although these men no longer possess the implicit confidence of the people, the Aleutians always celebrate the arrival of a fish with these games. The person first making the discovery announces it by wearing a narrow fillet on his head, and has a right to half the entrails, skin, tongue, and sinews. The rest is divided by the trojars of the village among the other Aleutians.

On one of the days which I passed here I witnessed the following celebration of the above-mentioned games: — There poles were placed horizontally between the beams of the jurt, the first about three feet below the upper opening of the jurt, the second about twelve feet lower, and the third about nine feet below the second, and about four feet from the ground.

The Aleutians assembled from the different villages then swing themselves up to the opening, during which a perpetual clamour is kept up by the shouts of the people at whose jurt it takes place, while those who miss their aim and fall to the ground are saluted by the spectators with loud peals of laughter. As soon as this is concluded, and the guests are seated, the dances commence in the following order:—First, two boys in a state of nudity, who were followed by men with drums fancifully decorated with caps on their heads, girdles round their loins, and bands on their arms and feet; afterwards females, two and two, having their heads encircled with binders embroidered with goat's hair, flourishing bladders of birds' skins, and dancing to the drums; then a second string of females carrying arrows; and finally a train of men in motley masks, with wide streaked mouths, and on their heads a sea-dog's face. Some few who were seated struck violently on drums, to which they sung the following verses, which, although translated to me, I by no means understood:

What shall I do?
As it appears to me,
That I shall do.

Then came another mask, with wide extended mouth, and a shepherd's crook, singing as follows:

O what knavery!
O what roguery!
Thou, O Ammeeh!
Hast made the world.

A third mask, having lost a left eye, sung the following:

In the midst of Alaksa,
Is Agmagaluk's jurt;
'Tis that which we sing.

These men were followed by female masks, who seated themselves by the man with the sea-dog's face, before whom a few other women danced with dishevelled hair, carrying beards of sea-lions in their hands, occasionally pointing to the mask seated in the middle. They sung the following verse:

The hellish island Sakchadok
Contains the arrows we must not forget;
Yet why should we remember
That which brings no good?

And thus ended the piece. I had also an opportunity of seeing the dances of some of the Andrejanow islanders (who were spectators of the above performance), which differed much from the others. The men took off their upper garments, dancing in succession one after the other in shirts and trowsers; having on their heads caps, embroidered with long narrow points, projecting forwards, curved towards the top, and decorated with goat's hair. A sea-hound's skin, two sea-lions' bladders, and a cloth, were thrown before the dancers. When the Aleutians began to sing, the dancer took in each hand a bladder, which he held so as for them to hang down to his elbows, and then began to dance, nodding and tossing his head to the sound of the drum; after which, throwing down the bladders, he took up the the skin, and swung it aloft several times, as if to exhibit it to the company; then threw it down, and seizing the cloth, danced with it as before, holding its extremities in his hands; and finally, taking a stick, imitated the action of rowing a baidar. They say this dance is expressly invented for the purpose of representing in a ridiculous point of view the vauntings of their companions, concerning their catching marine animals; the bladders, the seal's-skin, and cloth being emblematical of the spoil which the hunter triumphantly exhibits to view. The women array themselves for the dance in an upper garment, resembling the parka of the men which they confine with a girdle, tying round their heads a binder, like that of the native Aleutians, and carrying on their backs an arrow with an inflated bladder. The lady thus equipped, approaches the circle of men, who are all seated,

and kneels on a grass mat in the midst. When the song commences, she begins to move, and gradually rises with her hands both confined in her girdle; she then takes the arrow from her back, and, raising herself on her toes, in this attitude dances, without leaving the spot, at the same time suiting the movements of her head, and those of the arrow she holds in her hand, to the sound of the drum.

On the 17th the weather being fine and sun bright, I commenced my observations from the promontory of the place, and found our latitude 53° 51′. A small distance from the village I discovered a warm spring issuing from a cleft in a rock, which is, however, only visible at low water, being at other times wholly covered by the stream.

On the 18th the weather was calm enough for me to pursue my course; previous to which I took a survey of Makuschinsk. The shore leading to it extends in rocky projections towards south-east 60°; the entrance of the bay is about 2¾ miles wide, lying to the north-east 55°. At a distance of about 220 fathoms from the northern side of the bay towards the south-west are two high projecting rocks; 60 feet from the rocks the water was not more than seven fathoms, although in the middle it was so deep that our lead never once reached the bottom. The whole bay is nine miles and a half in length. At noon we were off the left shore, near Ikschaktak's bay, in lat. 53° 46′. In the afternoon we ran in and found the opposite shore, five miles distant from the mouth, divided by a neck of land into two parts, one called Udamak and the other Maganach.—The first extends to south-east four miles and a half, having in its centre two small islands. On the left hand, the space between the shore and the nearest island is about the third part of a verst in the centre. The water is 32 fathoms deep, with a gravelly bottom: the roads are about a verst in width, and so deep that a line of fifty fathoms could not reach the bottom. The other half, or Maganach bay, extends itself two miles and a half towards the south; it is very deep at the entrance, but three quarters of a mile farther shallows to fifty fathoms, and continues to become more shallow as you approach the opposite shore. A mile and a quarter from the island, both the shores approach each other, and form a road about half a verst in breadth, which leads to an oval basin, a mile in diameter.—This basin also receives a stream that descends from the mountains. In the centre it is seven fathoms deep, and at the mouth 25, with a muddy bottom. We took up our abode for the night on the first island, where we found a hut constructed of whales' bones, in which the Aleutians, from Makuschinsk,

usually reside during the autumn, for the purpose of catching sea-bears, which run into the bay at that season.

On the following day we left this place, and anchored again off the village Akmaga, four miles from the bay Makuschinsk. This village lies near the shore, in the vicinity of a brook which flows out of a lake, and has seven male inhabitants. Having passed the night here, we proceeded onward, and passed two bays which penetrated three miles into the island to south-east. They appeared unsheltered, and not well adapted for an anchoring-place, on which account I thought it needless to enter them. A range of high rocks extend themselves for about half a mile to south-west, beyond which the shore winds to south-east and south towards a bay, called by the Aluetians Alukoo, and by the Russians Makrowsk; its entrance is about a mile and a half wide, defended on each side by steep rocks, and penetrating towards the east about three miles and three quarters, and then winds to the south, where, although it is sheltered from the winds on one side, is still an insecure station from the rough rocks and numerous cliffs on its shore. Two miles and a half beyond the promontory is another bay to the south, called Koshiga, open towards the west a mile and a half long, and at the mouth three quarters of a mile broad; near which, on the right shore, is an inconsiderable island fr. ing the ocean; a mile beyond, a high and slender rock emerges from the water, under whose surface lie concealed innumerable shelves. The depth between the rock and the island is 35 fathoms, with a gravelly bottom; at the mouth of the bay the water is only twelve fathoms deep, and shallows to seven farther on, with a bottom of fine sand, which, judging from the appearance of the shore, most probably covers the rocks at no great distance from hence, and occasioned the wrecking of Shebeshow's ship in 1790, who, having anchored in the bay to water, in his way from the island Badjak, was torn from his anchorage, and dashed against the shore.

On the inner shore of the bay lies the village Koshiga, consisting of three jurts, inhabited by thirty-two Aleutians, and two Russian hunters, left in the former year from a ship belonging to Shebeshow, on the western promontory of the island, while the ship itself wintered in the island discovered by the steersman Pribylow.

Among the Aleutians who accompanied me from Akmagan was a Shaman, who undertook the restoration of a sick woman at the request of her relations. The Shaman and some of his country people seated themselves in a circle round the sick woman, and commenced a Shaman's hymn, accompanied by the drum; to this, after a short time, followed a profound silence, occasioned,

as the interpreter informed me, by the appearance of a spirit, which the Shaman began to supplicate for the sick woman. The spirit appeared rather obstinate at first; but at the continued entreaties of the Shaman at length yielded, adding, that the sick person suffered on account of her father's having, while on the whale fishery, smeared his arrows with the spinal marrow of that fish, and since he was now dead, an evil spirit was charged to obtain satisfaction from the daughter. The song now recommenced, and at the expiration of five minutes silence again prevailed. The Shaman then addressed the spirit, which now appeared to be under his controul, and informed the bystanders, that it was now in the bowels of the sick woman, for the purpose of minutely examining the disease, and removing the cause, from which in three days her restoration might be expected. This hope, according to the assurance of the Shaman, was confirmed by another spirit, whose opinion he had obtained; and thus concluded the exorcism. The Shamans never demand any compensation from the people, contentedly receiving what is given them, and never requiring offerings for the spirits.

On the 21st, I proceeded farther with fine weather, and a calm sea; but towards noon a gale from the north-west blew so hard, that I with difficulty reached the first promontory, four miles from Koshiga to the south-west, and anchored off a little village called by the Aleutians Umschaluka, by the Russians Sedenka. It contains only twelve inhabitants. From the promontory is discernible a small rocky island, a quarter of a mile to the south-west and a mile to the west, a high rock surrounded with projecting cliffs.

On the third day the wind abated, and we made direct for the promontory of Amnak, distant from Sedenka about five miles to south-west 51°, and projecting far into the ocean with a range of high rocks. Between these two promontories are three open bays. The first, called Alimuda, commences immediately beyond Sedenka, penetrating two miles and a half into the island in a westerly direction: the second is two miles in extent to the south-west; and the third is only divided from the second by a small slip of land, running in a south-easterly direction a mile and a quarter into the island.

When we came directly opposite to the promontory of Amnak, we perceived the entrance of the Bay of Tschernowsk, two miles and three quarters distant from the back part of the promontory. The entrance is defended on each side by a sort of promontory of high rock, surrounded with projecting cliffs. The shore between Amnak and Tschernowsk forms a slight curve far into the sea, is alternately rugged and mountainous,

but evidently lower than Amnak, which, when viewed from the ocean, appears much elevated.

In the evening I arrived at the village of Tschernowsk, and on the following morning, notwithstanding the snow and rain, proceeded to survey the bay, which I found to be three miles and three quarters in length. The water at the entrance is 15 fathoms, with a gravelly bottom; half a mile from the entrance is 35 fathoms deep; and a mile to the interior, only 18 fathoms. A mile and a half from the entrance is a small cove, penetrating a mile and a half to the west, 14 fathoms deep in the centre, with a muddy bottom, and might afford an excellent anchoring-place. On the peninsula lies the village of Tschernowsk, consisting of one large and one small jurt, inhabited by thirty-nine Aleutians. The latitude of this place is 53° 29′.

It was now my intention to visit the western promontory of Unalaschka, and proceed to my vessel round by the southern-shore; but being detained here three days by violent winds, and my provisions being on the decline, I was compelled to return.

On the 1st of March I came to Koshiga, and was informed by the inhabitants, that not far from here on the south-side of the island is another very large bay, whose very fine situation determined me to visit it, although I was detained by wind and weather till the 6th, when I proceeded in a treble-seated baidar, five miles along an inlet between a double row of mountains. The bay is called Kullilak, and although not so large as had been represented, is admirably defended on all sides against the sea; its length from south-west to north-west is a mile and a half. The entrance of the bay is towards the north-west 65°, its breadth between two naked projecting cliffs 100 fathoms. Its depth in the middle is 11 fathoms, and near the cliffs from four to five. Farther in the bay curves to north-east, and becomes broader but shallower; and near to a small rocky island, the water is only four fathoms and a half: the bottom is sandy. On the left shore is a sand-bank, with several naked and concealed cliffs which ships must guard against by keeping to the right shore. After having passed this island, the bottom becomes muddy, and the depth of water increases to seven fathoms and a half, and continues so to the furthest shore, when it receives the waters of two brooks; one from the mountains, the other from a lake. The shore of the bay is in some places mountainous, in others high and rocky, then again forming a sloping plain. I then proceeded about three miles beyond the bay to a promontory on my right, to take a survey of the southern shore of Unalashka, and perceived that it has a south-westerly direction, and that the island is on this side very

narrow. On the other side of the Bay of Kullilak to the north-east, the shore was concealed by the steep and projecting promontory of Amtschik. The Aleutians were of opinion, that it might be easy to run into the Bay of Kullilak from the open sea; but it may not be amiss to remark, that when you sail from the side east-south-east towards the island, it appears to be divided into two islands.

Hazy weather and stormy winds detained me six days at the village of Koschiga, and obliged me to consume my small stock of provisions, after which I was compelled to make shift with dried fish, marine herbs, and vegetables, except once, when my host brought me some fresh fish, which they call Terpuge; but having neither bread nor salt I ate it with little relish.

The Aleutians becoming at length quite tired of bad weather, they one day collected themselves together men, women, and children, and repaired to an open field, where having ligthed a fire and turned themselves to the wind, they clapped their hands and screamed with all their might, quietly returning in the full expectation of a favourable change.

Towards evening, I suddenly heard the drum beating in a corner of the Jurt, and was informed by my interpreter, that the Tojas and Shamans were conjuring a spirit for favourable weather. At the expiration of a quarter of an hour the Shaman began to cry aloud, but soon ceased, and fell senseless to the ground. The terror became universal, a crowd surrounded him; sung a solemn lamentation, and conjured the spirit to spare the good Shaman; notwithstanding which he continued some time motionless, but at last revived, and informed the bystanders "that he had summoned the spirit into his presence, and commanded him to send fine weather; but the spirit thought it by no means necessary, and he accordingly reproved him for his obstinacy and caprice, threatening, if he persisted in his refusal, to inform the people that he had not sufficient power, which would certainly not be much to his honour. Upon this the spirit became so furious, that he fell on him, and continued to torment him until he became senseless, during which period it was manifested to him, that the weather would be no better until three days after the death of a certain woman, (whose name he mentioned), which would take place in the course of the summer. Then (added he) we might sail as far as Makuschinsk, but no farther, as we should there be again overtaken by bad weather. He enjoined us therefore, by no means to attempt proceeding farther, even if advised to do so by the inhabitants themselves. He then informed me that on my return to my vessel, I should not find my companions and

people in a good state; but that although we might lament having passed the whole winter on the island, yet we should put to sea at the commencement of the summer, and happily return to the place from which we came."

The latitude of this place is 53° 31'.

On the 16th of March, I set out on my return to Makuschinsk; but being unable to proceed by water on account of the violent winds, I resolved to cross the mountains along the shore on foot, to Captain's Bay, which the Aleutians informed me was practicable during the summer in one day.

I went in my baidar to the extreme point of the Bay of Makuschinsk, where I landed and commenced my excursion with three Aleutians as guides. For above half the way, I proceeded with great facility; when I came to the back of a mountain, whose summit I could reach only by climbing a winding path, on the rocky shore of a river. The farther I advanced, the steeper it became; and being quite covered with hard snow, my labour was much augmented by being compelled with every step to stamp for myself a sure footing. Thus occupied, I fearlessly proceeded, unconscious of the height I had attained, until at last, finding I could go no farther, I saw to my dismay that I stood on the brink of an immense precipice, whose sides were covered with rocks, at the bottom of which flowed a brook. On the sudden discovery of my situation, I was seized with such an irresistible dread, that I could proceed no farther, and resolved to retread the path I had ascended, in doing which I expected at every step to be precipitated headlong to the bottom. Fortunately, however, I arrived in safety at the place from whence I set out, and was again detained by wind and weather for the four following days.

On the 20th at midnight, a violent tempest began, and the wind blew on land with such fury, that no one could withstand it. On the following day the wind was less violent, but the sea remained much agitated. The latitude of Makuschinsk is 53° 50′ 35″.

The Toja of Makuschinsk, seeing my uneasiness at being thus long detained from my ship, and the great inconvenience I experienced for want of food, was at length moved with compassion, and informed me, that if the baidars were brought from the Bay of Makuschinsk to Beaver's-bay, it would be easy to pass to the vessels. By the aid of persuasion and presents, therefore, I at length prevailed on some Aleutians to carry their own baidars and mine, across the land which parted the two bays, the distance being about three miles and a half.

I began my little voyage on the 23d, and reaching the vessels on the following day, found that during my absence the crews

of the vessels had suffered so much from the scurvy, that eleven were dead on board the great ship, and three on board the small one. As I knew from experience, that this complaint is much relieved by change of air, I had the sick removed to the neighbouring villages with all speed, where they were placed in jurts, previously cleaned and fitted for their reception. Besides this, the snow began to melt in various places, and enabled us to procure green-herbs for their sustenance, which produced a visible and rapid change. The chief cause of this malady was the damp and unfavourable weather, which continued almost uninterruptedly during the whole of our stay at this place. Besides which the half putrified food contributed not a little to increase the disorder, particularly bad rye-bread, which at best was tasteless, and soon became mouldy.

CHAP. X.

DESCRIPTION OF UNALASCHKA.

THE Island of Unalaschka, or as the inhabitants denominate it Nagunalaska, is the largest in the whole chain of Fox Islands; it lies in the 54th degree of north latitude, and 194th degree of longitude east from the meridian of Greenwich. On the western side it is bounded by the island of Umnak, and on the east by the islands of Spirkin-Kigalga and Unalga. Its length from south-west to north-west, is seventy-four miles; and its greatest width twenty; terminating to the west near Umnak, in a small promontory. It is surrounded by a number of bays, some of which penetrate so far into the land, as almost to unite with others on the opposite side. Among them are three of considerable magnitude, Ugadjach or Beaver's bay, running from the eastern side sixteen miles into the land; Makuschinsk on the western side ten miles, and a third running from Captain's-haven, seven miles and a half in land. All these have lesser bays, or creeks, adjoining them. They are all so deep in the middle, that a 60 fathom line cannot reach the bottom; and in the sea, on the north and south side of the island, at the distance of six hundred feet from the shore, the water is above 100 fathoms, while in the straits it is not more than 20 or 30 fathoms. The whole island of Unalaschka is covered with mountains, whose summits are crowned with pointed and naked rocks; one of these mountains on the southern side is volcanic, and covered half-way up with moss and grass. The southern shore of the island is bounded by a chain of high rocks, but those at the northern extremity are rather lower than the others, and many slope towards the sea. The declivities of some of the mountains which are watered by brooks, produce grass

and herbs. On the low spots are grown various sorts of plants, among which is the epilobium angustifolium, the branches which are numerous, and shoot annually from the parent root on stems above three feet high, with long narrow unequal leaves, the flower consisting of four small roundish patent lanceolated petals, with eight pedicles, the fruit consisting of a very long capsule of a cylindrical form, with four valves. The seeds are numerous and oblong. It grows in marshy places in the north of Europe. We also found the arbutus uva ursi, a creeping evergreen of inconsiderable size, the leaves of which are tough, thick, not juicy, and rounded with the corners bent inward. Between these, campanulated flowers of a pink colour shoot forth, and are succeeded by tasteless round mealy berries. It grows in the fir-woods of the temperate parts of Russia, and is used in tanning fine skins. The leaves are esteemed a powerful diuretic, and the berries yield a serviceable dye.

I likewise met with raspberries of an amazing size, which, however, were watery and less inferior in flavour to those of Europe. Among the edible roots are the Macarscha and Sarana, as also a sort of yellow carrot, which the inhabitants maintain has so great a power of strengthening the sight, that, if they eat largely of it at night, they can on the following morning discern the smallest object at an incredible distance; for which reason they generally eat of it previous to going on the chace.

This island abounds with black, dark-brown, and light-grey foxes, but there are but few red ones. The Russian hunters catch them with traps; but in this open country they are by no means so good as those caught in the woody parts of Siberia; on which account they are much cheaper than the Siberian. Yet with all this disadvantage, the Russian merchants derive a considerable profit from this trade.

Besides the foxes there are no quadrupeds, except short-tailed mice, which burrow in the earth, where they find roots for their sustenance, and reside winter and summer; but they lay up no store for the former season.

Among the birds are eagles, with white heads and tails, hawks, woodcocks, and many kinds of small birds, some of which sing very well. Sea-fowls of different kinds are also numerous, as urilas, owls, &c. which frequent the ledges of the rocks, and are caught in their nests by the inhabitants, who convert their skins into garments as before described. The urilas are about the size of a wild goose, have long necks, sharp beaks, and black feathers, with a beautiful green ring round their necks. The breasts and necks of the males are frequently variegated by a mixture of white feathers. Their legs are so near the tail,

that when they sit on the rocks, they appear to be standing; their bodies and necks being almost perpendicular. The owls are about the size of a duck; their breasts are white, and the rest of their feathers black. The Toporkas are nearly of the same size, their feathers being grey, their beaks red, broad, flat, and prominent; their eyes shaded with a row of white feathers, arched like eye-brows. The skins of these birds are much valued for their firmness, and are mostly made into garments for the men. Their beaks are used by the women for the decoration of their cloaths. There are no birds so difficult to shoot as these, from the extreme closeness of their plumage, which repels the shot; besides which, they frequently plunge into the water, and when they swim clap their wings as in flying. Two sorts of geese also occasionally visit the island; the first, which come from the southern countries in the middle of April, and reside on the lakes during the summer, are of a moderate size, with grey plumage, and the head and neck black; in September and October they disappear again, and are succeeded by others of a similar size, with an ash-coloured plumage speckled with white. These latter come hither from the north, live the whole winter on the cliffs, that are often under water, and feed on the sea-weeds that abound in these parts.

In April, at the commencement of spring, they fly to the northern climates, where they probably breed. Yet we saw none of them in the country of the Tschukshens, whence I should draw the conclusion, that they make the shore of North America their summer residence. The amphibious tribe of animals are less numerous here, than in the other Aleutian Islands. There were formerly otters in abundance, the skins of which were made into vests by the inhabitants; but since the stay of the Russians here, the number of these animals has been greatly diminished, and they are now very scarce. Sea-bears make their appearance in spring and autumn, but for a short time only, as they withdraw to the north in the spring, and to the south in autumn. Sea-lions however, frequent the detached rocks both summer and winter, though not in great numbers.

Fish of different kinds are to be found round the island, as roach, cod, and another sort call terpuges, much variegated with yellow, green, and red spots. The rivers in June, July, and August, abound with ketas and the hump-backed salmon. Among the shell-fish are three sorts of crabs, the first round and large, with long feet, very similar to those of the spider, and on that account called sea-spiders: the second in like manner round but smaller, with shorter legs and longer pincers; the third sort resembles the small river crabs, ex-

cept that the tail is not covered with a shell, on which account they like to conceal themselves in the shells of snails, which they often drag about with them.

Judging from the barrenness, rude aspect, and deficiency of the necessary articles of food, one would imagine, that this island was not destined for the habitation of man; but, according to the assurance of the Aleutians, it was sufficiently peopled before the arrival of the Russians, but hunger and other untoward accidents had reduced the population to less than one half, and at present not more than one third was remaining. Their residences are all fixed on the shore of the sea, and on the north, east, and west-side of the island, that to the south being uninhabited; they reckon fourteen dwelling-places in the whole, and three hundred and twenty-three male inhabitants. Each dwelling-place consists of two or three mud hovels of various sizes, the largest of which are nine fathoms long, and three broad.

The floor of such a hut is sunk somewhat under ground, and the roof is made of the floating wood which they fish out of the sea, covered with moss and grass. The light is admitted through some small openings in the roof, that serve also for the egress and ingress of the inhabitants, by means of a ladder, which consists of different steps cut out of a plank. About seven foot from the outer wall stakes are driven into the ground, which partly support the roof, and partly serve to mark out the partition for each family, in which, instead of beds, platted grass-mats are spread. They sit on these mats in the day-time to work, and sleep on them at night, using their cloaths for covering. They empty their dirty slops and every filth, into the middle of this common dwelling, which becomes by that means excessively wet and muddy; and were there no openings in the roof, would soon occasion an insupportable stench and vapor. Each partition has a particular wooden reservoir for the urine, which is used both for dyeing the grass, and for washing their hands; but after cleaning the latter in this manner, they rince them in pure water, and dry them in the open air, by swinging them backward and forward.

They seldom make a fire in the jurt, except to cook the flesh of the sea-animals, and some sorts of fish: but they eat the cod-fish raw after cutting them into small pieces, which they consider as a preventive against the mischief that they might otherwise receive from some small worms, supposed to be in the flesh of these creatures.

They obtain fire by striking two flints over the down of birds, sprinkled with brimstone, which instantaneously catch the falling sparks.

In the evening they burn train-oil in stone lamps, on which

occasion, they use dry moss for a wick. With this fire they not only light the jurt, but warm themselves, by taking it under their coats, and closing the opening, so that the heat cannot escape. In this manner they can make themselves as hot as if they were in a sweating-bath. The stone of which these lamps are made is very soft, and may be hollowed out with others of greater hardness, not merely for this purpose, but also for deep pots, in which they boil their fish. They use them however, but seldom, preferring mostly the iron and copper kettles, which they procure from the Russians.

The wooden utensils of these islanders are water-vats, made of split planks. The fat of the whales and the seals they preserve in bladders; the other dry provisions, in baskets, or sacks of braided grass.

Knives and axes they procure from the Russians; but they are not well acquainted with the use of the latter, to which they fasten a wooden handle, so that they can chip with them as with a hatchet, but neither split nor hew; they rive their large trees therefore by means of wooden wedges.

Nothing is more tedious and fatiguing, than their carpenter's and joiner's work, in making their baskets, their arrows, and the hulks of their baidars. One whole year and more is spent in building such a small boat, on which account they prefer purchasing it at a dear rate. The bare collecting together as much wood on the shore as is requisite for a baidar, is attended with infinite toil and trouble. The main part is the keel, 21 feet in length, which is always composed of two or three pieces. To this they fasten, by means of split whalebone, ribs of willow and alder-branches, on the upper extremities of which they place a frame with cross-bars, which in the middle is a foot and half broad, and binds the whole baidar together. Over the whole they stretch the hide of a sea-lion, or a large sea-dog, leaving on the top a round but smallish opening, in which the rower sits. This baidar is so light in all its parts, that altogether it does not weigh much above thirty pounds. The paddles are very long, and have shovels at both ends. They are held by the rowers in such a manner, that they can row alternately with one shovel on the one side, and another on the other.

The weapons of the islanders consist merely of darts and spears, which, as they use them for different purposes, are of various sizes. The first sort, which are used against men and animals, are four foot long, having a bit of lava affixed as a point, which is an inch and half long, and three quarters of an inch broad. The second sort is smaller than the first, and is only used against animals; points of bone instead of lava are tied on them

with sinews. The third sort, which is used for killing birds, is equal to the first in size, and provided with four barbed bone-points. The fourth sort is nine feet long, and also used against animals, having at one extremity a bony point, to which is tied a thong made of sinews, that is wound twice round the middle of the spear. The other extremity is adorned with a bush of eagle's feathers. The fifth sort is four feet four inches long, having a bony point, and in the middle an inflated bladder, to keep the mortally wounded animal from sinking. The boards with which these darts were thrown are about a foot and half long; one end is fitted for a handle, and at the other end a bone is fastened in like a nail, on which the dart is placed for being thrown.

The darts and boards are dyed with a red stuff, collected from the sides of the rocks, and dissolved in water secreted from blood, by which it is made proof against rain or salt-water.

The blood for this purpose they get from their noses, which they prickle with a blade of grass, until they have procured a sufficiency. On any excursion to sea, they fix their darts behind and before them, in thongs fastened to the baidar.

The darts, which the Aleutian always endeavours to get again, he throws with his right-hand, while with his left he manages the baidar.

He is so dexterous in the government of his bark, that the lightest sloop would certainly not be able to overtake him; for we had the experience of the Aleutians coming up with our vessel in their baidars, when it was going at the rate of four leagues an hour.

Mears says in his Travels, that the Aleutians could turn themselves over in their baidars, and regain their position at pleasure; but this is not the case. Whenever they are so unfortunate as to be overturned, their death is inevitable, if no one be at hand to assist them; on which account they take the precaution of going in companies, and put in stones for ballast when they have no other load. When they have occasion to stop for any purpose, they bind all their baidars close together; and if they wish to land safely in a violent storm, they must have assistance from the shore to draw their baidars to land.

Expert as these islanders are in the management of their baidars, they are incapable of swimming; and, from what I observed, are not in the habit of bathing, which may be owing to the severity of the climate.

Respecting the appearance, dress, and labours of the Aleutians, nothing is to be added to what has already been said on that subject in the first chapter of this volume. It now remains to mention the different opinions relative to their origin, and

to take notice of their superstitions, rites, and funeral solemnities. It must of course be very difficult to trace the origin of a people so remote and savage, which has no other documents than what oral tradition affords, blended as it is with a thousand fables, and confused by a thousand contradictions. In such cases, the best means of getting at the truth, is to compare the customs, manners, and language of one people with those of another, and from thence to draw our conclusions. At the same time, I have not neglected any information which could possibly be collected from their incongruous relations, and for that reason took particular pains to converse with the old men on this subject.

From the thin population found in these islands, I concluded that they could not have been long inhabited, and that the inhabitants probably knew something by tradition of the place whence they came; but I could gain no satisfactory answer to my enquiries; for the two tales related to me by a couple of old men, did not at all accord, and afforded me no clue to a farther solution. "One informed me, that God, after the creation of these islands, also created men who were originally immortal, and when they had reached old age, went on a lofty mountain and threw themselves into a lake, from whence they came out possessed of renovated youth; but that God in the mean time fell in love with one of their virgins, and took her to be his wife, who once, in a familiar conversation, reproached him with having committed a fault in the creation of the Aleutian Islands, by giving them so many mountains, and no wood. Upon this God was extremely indignant, and killed her brother, which was the introduction of mortality among men."

According to the other fable, the Aleutians are said to descend from a dog, that fell from the sky on the Island of Unmak, which had two puppies, a male and a female, that had dog's paws; but the progeny of these were perfect men. As they multiplied, and the island became too small for them, dissensions arose, and they were compelled to seek habitations elsewhere, some going eastward to Cape Alaksa, others to the cluster of islands in the west, whence they received various appellations. The inhabitants of Atta, are called Sagignas; those of the Andrejenow Islands Negochas; those of the Rat Islands, Kogochas; those of the Volcanic Islands, Akoganas; those of Unmak and Unalaschka, Kagulangas; those of Unmak and the other circumjacent islands, Kigegonas; those of Unmak, Sannach, and Uega, Kagantagumas; those of Kadjak, Kanagas; those of Cook's River, Kenaizas; and those of Prince William's Bay, Schugatschas. Not a single Aleutian can assign a reason for these different appellations; notwithstanding which, all these

people, except the Kenaizas, Kenagas, and Schugatschas, have the same customs, dress, and even language, with a few variations in some words, and in the pronunciation, which does not, however, prevent them from understanding each other.

On the islands, where the Russian merchant-ships anchor, as on Unalaschka, Umnak, and the Andrejenow Islands, the people are more civilized. Some of them speak good Russian, and many are baptized in the Christian Faith. But in the other islands, they are as rude and savage as ever. They acknowledge a God indeed, as the almighty and universally beneficent Being, but regard all worship, sacrifice, and prayer as superfluous, from the idea that God knows better than they, what is good for them, and will grant it without their request.

They consider misfortunes and diseases as the effects of wicked spirits, and on such occasions have recourse to their Shamans, who assume no particular garb, nor use any extravagant gestures in their exorcisms, but calmly sing with the other Aleutians, sitting in one posture, and sometimes beating on a drum. Their drums are not large, being the same as those used for every other song and dance. The Aleutians take one, two, or even three wives, as they are in a capacity of supporting them. They have no nuptial ceremonies. The bridegroom commonly treats with the parents for the bride, and promises what he thinks he can afford, either in cloaths, baidars, or what are termed Kalga, which is prisoners made in the other islands, or destitute orphans, who are consigned over to a rich Aleutian, to labour for their bare sustenance, and may be transferred to another on the same conditions. If the parties are agreed, the bridegroom begins to visit his bride, and frequently spends whole days with her, in the character of a lover. If they have any regard for each other, the bridegroom either takes her to his house, or repairs for a constancy to her dwelling. If they live in harmony, the father now on his part makes presents to the son-in-law; if, however, the husband be not satisfied with his wife, he can send her away, but has no right to demand his own presents back; on the other hand, if the woman will not live with him, he is at liberty to take from his father-in-law all that he had given for her.

No man is allowed to sell his wife without her consent; but he can resign her over to another, either for a term of years, or for a continuance, which is not unfrequent. The Russian hunters, in particular, make use of this privilege, and take Aleutian women or girls for a time, for which they give a trifling compensation. But it never happens that a woman grants her favours to another without the consent of her husband; for in this barter of

their persons, they are not influenced by love, but a desire of gain. Nor was this custom so frequent, before the arrival of the Russian hunters, and is not practised by any whose thirst of gain has not stifled their natural sense of shame; there are, however, many who would not carry on so disgraceful a commerce, for any emolument whatever. I was told, that formerly this custom was not practised for money, but from a sort of compassion, and a cordial attachment to an individual, who, on his return after a long absence, was allowed to sleep one night with every female, married and unmarried, in the jurt. Hence it is, that the man, who can never with certainty claim the children as his own, that are born by his wives, has not an equally unlimited power over them with the mother; nay, that the uncle on the mother's side has more authority than he.

The children of one father by different mothers are not regarded as brothers and sisters, and are accordingly permitted to intermarry; but the case is reversed, with respect to those by one mother and different fathers. The distribution of the property on the death of the father is regulated by the relatives, who usually leave the greatest part for the widows and children, and take the rest for themselves.

I had no opportunity of witnessing a burial; but I learnt from the inhabitants, that a custom formerly prevailed at the decease of a Toja, or any other man of consequence, of burying one of his servants with him. But now this barbarous custom is done away; and the baidars, darts, and other utensils only of the deceased are put in his grave. The entrails are taken out of the corpse; which is stuffed with hay. Persons in mean circumstances are put without any ceremony into the ground, or the cavities of the rocks, but the rich are laid in tombs, made of wood, expressly for the purpose. Into these earth is first shaken, and then covered with grass mats and skins, upon which the body is laid, and bound with thongs, in the position in which one usually sits in the baidar, with the feet approaching towards the breast, and the hands folded round the latter. Another mat is then laid over it, and covered with another layer of earth, upon which broken pieces of the baidar are placed. If the wife has an affection for the deceased, she cuts the hair off the crown of her head, as a token of her grief, and mourns for him several days; sometimes carrying it so far as to keep the body for weeks together in the jurt, for which purpose a frame is erected of a suitable size, in the shape of a prism, and covered with skins. The corpse is fixed into this case, as in a sitting posture, and remains there in a detached corner of the jurt, until the unsupportable smell renders it necessary for it to be buried. But little chil-

dren for whom such a frame can be made firmer and closer, are kept sometimes a whole year and even longer, until another comes into the world to supply its place. Such coffins are decorated by the mothers with enamel beads, thongs and bird's bills, and hung over their beds.

I shall now conclude my description of these islanders with some few remarks on their capacities, propensities, and morals. The Aleutians have a good natural understanding, very considerable talents, and a quick comprehension; some of them were very expert at cards, draughts, or even chess, in which none of our companions could excel them. They are indebted for these acquirements to the Russian hunters, who, without intending any good to the islanders, sought by this means to enliven the leisure time, which hung heavy on their hands. Had they however, chosen to turn their thoughts to the introduction of agriculture and every rural occupation, they would have obtained their own object more effectually, and enjoyed the gratifying reflection of having contributed to the civilization of a savage people.

The inhabitants are very quiet and peaceable among each other, at least as far as we can judge from experience, having never observed the least discord among them, during our whole stay.

On my journey round the island, they every where received me with the greatest friendliness, and entertained me in the kindest manner, so that I may with justice place hospitality among the principal virtues of this rude people; it being displayed to all who pass through their places, without regard to relationship or acquaintance; for I myself was witness to their sharing the half of their own provisions with perfect strangers from other islands, and that too without receiving any compensation. At the same time they have the commendable custom of relieving every one from the painful necessity of asking for any thing, by setting before the weary traveller whatever they possess, as soon as he enters their jurt and is seated. In addition to this, the Aleutians form an exception to savages in general, and particularly those inhabiting the Eastern Islands, that they are not thieves. Nor have I observed any other evil propensities among them, but indolence and ingratitude. They never betray any vehement emotions, nor do their countenances ever indicate either vexation, melancholy, or joy, on any occasion, however extraordinary. On the return of a relative from a distance, he is received with as much unconcern as if he had never been absent. He likewise goes himself without saluting any one, or speaking a word, into his partition of the jurt, seats himself by his relations or wives, and takes off his

travelling attire. If he asks for any thing to eat, it is set before him, and if he is cold he has a lamp given him; after which, he begins relating some particulars of his journey, and they on their part inform him of what has passed at home during his absence; but all this goes forward without the slightest indication of curiosity or interest.

CONCLUSION.

THE reader will perhaps not be unwillingly detained a few moments longer at the close of my narrative, to learn the fate of my partners in this toilsome expedition.

The chief of the expedition, Captain Joseph Billings, retired on a pension as commodore, in the year 1797, and now resides at Moscow.

Robert Hall, captain, now rear-admiral and knight, residing at Petersburg.

Christian Behring, captain, a grandson of the famous navigator, from whom Behring's Strait receives its name, died of a consumption in August 1803, in the forty-third year of his age, as a pensioned major-general of the fleet.

Anthony Batakow, steersman, supposed to be dead.

Sergei Batakow, steersman, dead.

Kondratow, second steersman, his fate totally unknown.

Aphanassi Bakow, boatswain, is now boatswain with the rank of lieutenant, in the service of the fleet at Cronstadt, and has obtained the Wladimi order of the fourth class.

Michael Rohbeck, first-surgeon, is now first-physician of the hospital erected some time since at Petersburg, by her majesty the empress.

Surgeon Allegretti, so honourably mentioned by Mr. Lesseps, in his Journey through Siberia, was some years first-surgeon in the service of her majesty the empress, and had married a grand-child of the famous Euler, but died in the year 1799, in consequence of the bite of a mad dog, in the most melancholy condition.

Lehmann, first surgeon's assistant, is now living as first surgeon of one of the gallies.

Wassilei Woloschenow, second surgeon's assistant, received a post in the government of Woronesch.

Martin Sauer, secretary, known by his description of this Voyage, in his native language the English, is now a broker in the Petersburgh exchange.

Joseph Edwards, mechanic, is an overseer, in the silk and cotton manufactory, erected by her majesty the empress, at Alexandrousk, not far from Petersburgh.

M. Woronin, draughtman, follows his profession in the service of the Admiralty.

Serjeant Bakulin died as lieutenant at Ochotsk.

Doctor Merk, a man combining an almost puerile timidity with extraordinary intelligence, died in the year 1797. He understood the Jakutish language very well, partly from his having married a native of Jakutsk, who was descended from Russian parents. His widow is still living. The results of his observation and researches, together with that of the other voyagers, were consigned over to the celebrated Pallas.

Daniel Haus, steward, died during the expedition.

John Main obtained a situation some years ago in an iron-foundery of Mr. Gascoyne, at Petrosawodsk.

Charles Krebs died as bookbinder to the Admiralty, some years ago.

M. Wassilei Siwzow, the chaplain, remained after the expedition at Jakutsk, whence he had been taken, and is said to be still alive.

Captain Timophei Schmalew died during the expedition at Ochotsk.

Secretary Jerlin remained in Siberia, and is still living.

The provincial secretary Karpow died at Irkutsk.

Gawrila Pribylow, steersman, the discoverer of the islands named after him, remained in Siberia; and if still living, must be a very old man.

With regard to myself, it may suffice for the reader to know that I am still in the service of his Imperial Majesty, with the rank of Admiral, and member of the Board of Admiralty.

END OF SARYTSCHEW'S TRAVELS.